



17 January 2022

Re: Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2021

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission on this Bill as I am increasingly concerned and distressed by the way in which refugees and people seeking asylum are treated by Australia. I strongly support the passing of this Bill.

The current policies and practices are inhumane and arbitrary. People are suffering with no end in sight. This is cruel treatment and amounts to torture of people who were guilty of nothing except seeking refuge from persecution. This contravenes international law and conventions. I don't understand how my government representatives can just turn away from these actions and forget about them. There are about 200 people still in detention in PNG and Nauru and about 1500 being held in onshore detention. Most of them are refugees and have no obvious resettlement options. These people are suffering and continue to suffer indefinitely. Many of them have been seriously damaged by the government's actions in indefinitely detaining them, which further impacts their ability to be resettled. We owe these people - we need to change this.

I want this bill to be passed to end the indefinite detention of people and put an end to offshore detention. This Bill provides a pathway out of this nightmare. It is reasonable and implementable.

I urge the Committee to support this Bill.

Yours sincerely



Robyn Duff