

Submission regarding Migration Amendment (Prohibiting items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

12 October 2017

Asylum seekers and refugees held in detention by the Australian government have, in most cases, committed no crime. However, their human rights have been systematically denied and many have suffered years of uncertainty and inhumane treatment.

The proposed legislation would enable them to be subjected to degrading and inhumane treatment without transparency or appeal.

Allowing the use of dogs, strip searches and search provisions without search warrants denies basic human rights that should apply to anyone in Australia's control.

Giving the Minister power to determine what "a prohibited thing" is gives unprecedented, unaccountable power to the Minister, an encouragement to dictatorial behaviour without legal oversight.

I grieve for what has happened to Australia over the past few years as our brutal, unjust treatment of asylum seekers has escalated while politicians ruthlessly malign innocent people for their own political advantage.

Australia should be better than this.

Let us return to respect for human rights and appropriate oversight of political power and reject this Amendment.

Pat Horan