

**Re: Inquiry into Migration Amendment (Immigration Detention Reform) Bill 2009**  
**Submission**  
27 July 2009

Dear Sir

I commend the Government for the recent changes approved by the Lower House in regard to immigration detention. I encourage the Upper House to pass them expeditiously, as I am sure it will.

Despite huge strides towards developing a just policy towards refugees and illegal immigrants, some points continue to require urgent attention as highlighted by A Just Australia, below.

1. Treat detention on Christmas Island the same as on mainland Australia, in general and in particular as it applies to the detention of children.
2. the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should state that children should not be detained in any kind of secured immigration detention facility. Currently, children are being detained in facilities that are detention centres in all but name, under guard supervision and unable to come or go freely.
3. the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should specify adequate measures for independent, timely review of a person's detention. The Bill in its present form does not include any review measures. Under present policy, a person can be detained for six months before any independent review (by the Ombudsman) and even then, the Ombudsman's recommendations are not enforceable. Six months is too long to be detained on the decision of one DIAC official.

I look forward to continued progress towards humane treatment for all refugees and illegal immigrants. It is appalling that a country such as Australia can have allowed itself to develop and implement such inhumane policies over so long a period.

Yours faithfully  
Jon Cook