

To the senate Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs

I am writing to support the Migration Amendment (Immigration Detention Reform) Bill 2009

I applaud the Government's many positive changes with regard to the treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers but there are still some issues to address:

As endorsed by A Just Australia and The Refugee Council of Australia the detention values should apply to Christmas Island, not just mainland Australia. After all, most child asylum seekers are located on Christmas Island.

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.

-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. It is in this area that most injustices occur. Also, six months is too long to be detained on the decision of just one DIAC official.

Respectfully

Margaret Landbeck