

Dear Committee Members

4 July 2009

While I agree that detention centres should be maintained, I am concerned that stopping children from being detained will potentially short-circuit the processing of individual claims. My main concern, however is with the selection process itself. Detention should not be unduly prolonged.

Along with legal immigration is the selection in some (Islamic) countries of Muslims only to the detriment of Christians who also apply to leave restricted countries. This has to do with the personnel Australia chooses to allow to do the local vetting of applicants. Please assure me that I am wrong and that Australia is not gradually creating a Fifth Column here at home.

Yours sincerely
Deryck Thomas