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Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration's
Inquiry into Immigration Detention in Australia

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By Nick Armitage, individual private citizen

BY:.....MIG.....

Execution of health and security checks are the only reason why immigrants should be detained i.e denied physical access to the outside world.

All efforts must be made to ensure that such detention is for as short a period of time as possible.

All immigrants should be treated with dignity, compassion and respect and given access to medical and communication facilities particularly during any time in which they are detained.

It is improbable that immigrants can be given access to medical and communication facilities unless immigrants are housed close to significant population centres. This will also facilitate the role of volunteer groups who have demonstrated their capacity and willingness to provide succour to needy people who were neglected by the previous administration.

The centre on Christmas Island should be closed immediately because it's remote location makes it too expensive and impractical to operate. It was a costly mistake by the last government and should be written off as such.

The treatment of immigrants in detention centres on mainland Australia and offshore in places such as Nauru during the last Government of Australia was cruel and degrading. It has left a nasty stain on this country's reputation. I hope that the work of this committee will begin to remove that stain.

10 July 2008

Nick Armitage