

Submission No.....	44
Date Received.....	18 JUL 2008

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

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
The Secretary

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am making a submission to the inquiry into immigration detention in Australia.

The ALP Goldstein Federal Electoral Assembly (FEA) has nearly 200 members in the Federal Electorate of Goldstein.

The Goldstein FEA is aware that the present government has greatly improved the treatment of asylum seekers by closing the "Pacific Solution" and eliminating Temporary Protection Visas, however the Goldstein FEA also is aware that much more is needed to be done to ensure that asylum seekers are treated with justice and compassion in accordance with the spirit and the letter of international law.

At it's meeting on 7th July 2008 the Goldstein Federal Electoral Assembly passed the following resolution without dissent.

The Goldstein Federal Electoral Assembly calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to urgently repeal Section 209 of the Australian Government Migration Act 1958 under which asylum seekers are billed for the cost of their mandatory detention, and calls for the existing Section 209 debts to be waived.

The practice of sending a bill to this most disempowered section of the community who have had no say in their detention and who have merely exercised their right under international law to seek asylum in this country is grotesque and reprehensible.

Hoping that this matter can be speedily resolved

Yours Sincerely

Maurie Kelleher
Vice President
ALP Goldstein FEA