

Submission No. 75
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18/07/08

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Australia

RECEIVED
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BY: MIG AS

Dear Sir

I wish to participate in the very important inquiry by making a submission regarding the settling of Australia's Immigration detention policies and exploring options for the future.

I am hoping that our Government will help to integrate a fairer and more efficient system for asylum seekers with humanitarian approach that treats all people with dignity.

The criteria that should be applied in determining how long a person is held in immigration detention seriously needs immediate attention and action. For many years I have had concerns regarding the treatment of asylum seekers in Australia. Many detainees have been held in prison like centres for extended lengths of time. Large parts of their lives are lost, they suffer psychologically and physically because of the detention and the physical environment. On release, many fearful people are sent out into society with no planned accommodation, no health care, no job or financial assistance and no follow up services.

Concerns that require consideration

- once detainees are given visas they have the right to work or claim government benefits.
- Medicare rights
- Free education and English language tuition
- Elimination of enormous debt given to some asylum seekers on release from detention for their time in detention
- Organised accommodation and follow up services on release from detention
- Free physical and mental health checks for as long as required
- No asylum seekers or refugees on Christmas Island

I await in anticipation, humane outcomes ensuing the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Doreen Roache