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

RECEIVED  
11 JUL 2008  
BY: mig

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Inquiry into immigration detention in Australia

I welcome the news that Temporary Protection Visas have been abolished, and those on TPV'S will be granted permanent protection visas.

But most policies have not changed, and continue to cause hardship and heartache.

I urge you to give the following concerns, your consideration

**Bridging Visas E.** On this visas, a person is totally dependant on charity organisations. They need to be given work rights, access to medicare and social security income.

**Detention Debt.** According to Julian Burnside Q.C. There's only one other example of this unjust practice, in Nazi Germany where the Hitler regime sent the bill for accommodation in their concentration camps to the families of Jews who were exterminated. Abolish by law any billing of asylum seekers found to be refugees or assessed as needing protection in Australia for the cost of any detention they have been subjected to.

**Mandatory Detention.** Detention should be used as a measure of last resource only, and a reasonable time limit should be set. Also, Detention centres should be operated by the Government, not private contractors.

**Off- Shore Detention Centres.** I believe Asylum Seekers should be held in Australia during initial screening. Off-Shore Centres such as Christmas Island are more expensive to operate, and deny easy access to counselling and legal advice. Also, we should not be funding detention centres in Indonesia.

I realise, that what I have written does not cover all refugee concerns, and I trust that other submissions will include additional areas of importance.

We hope that the result of this inquiry into immigration detention in Australia, will go a long way towards reversing the unjust policies that are at present in force.

Yours sincerely,

Rex Rouse