

Submission No.....	60
Date Received.....	21

18th July 2008

Re: Submission to Immigration Detention in Australia

RECEIVED
21 JUL 2008

BY: MIG

Dear Committee,

please find my brief submission to the Immigration Detention System in Australia. I have been visiting refugees and asylum seekers weekly to monthly for between 2003 – 2006. I visited the Villawood Detention Centre with several groups including the St. Vincent De Paul Society and the Young Christian Workers Movement.

I would also like to add that the majority (9/10) of the refugees we visited (at least 40-60 people, including some children) were granted Temporary Protection Visas. I would also like to add that the system re-traumatised people who were very physically, emotionally and psychologically scarred. I decided to visit refugees at Villawood, to learn more about their situation and do what I could to raise awareness of the rights of refugees. I feel that I can provide some insight into what then and still is seems a degrading system which goes against human rights principles by essentially being able to imprison people who are fleeing for their lives for arbitrary periods of time.

I would like to submit the following Alternative Detention Policy http://www.ncca.org.au/cws/rdp/papers_and_submissions/alternative_detention_model model as the basis for my submission. In brief it is a flexible and cost effective process which support the human rights of refugees, upholds international conventions which Australia is party to and is a much better allocation of resources.

I believe that security, flexibility, allocation of resources and human rights are served under this model.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Falzon