

I wish to raise broad and general objections to current immigration policies and instances of mistreatment and abuses of power by the Immigration Department. Mandatory detention is a breach of Australia's international and humanitarian obligations, and the hidden torture of granting asylum seekers Bridging E Visas is an even greater breach of human rights. It has been clearly and insidiously designed as a tool for punishment or annihilation of persons already victimised, resourceless and struggling to survive.

DIMIA's philosophy of punishment; its beurocracy-based procedures; its butt-covering, paranoid, defensive staff; its lack of training of staff; its poor internal management; and its overall lack of professionalism, accountability practices and simple understanding of the rules they implement need a complete impartial overview. This is clear from both the Palmer Report and the daily experiences of people in our community surviving somehow (just) on Bridging Visa E without access to the right to work (even volunteer work), to Medicare and health care, to any refugee programs, to schools and education, even to concession rates on public transport. They have no dignity whatsoever, no hope and no ability to trust DIMIA advice or outcomes. These people in contemporary Australia are literally starving, dependent on charity for food and a roof over their heads, for an unlimited and uncertain period of time, with conflicting and incomprehensible communications and decisions coming out of DIMIA. Such issues must be dealt with boldly and immediately and can not be adequately addressed by the source of the problem - DIMIA and its appalling culture.

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