

Richard Babb. Hornsby. NSW..... 29th July. 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to voice my concern to ‘The Senate Inquiry into DIMEA’ regarding the flawed process involved in assessing the validity of the claims of asylum seekers. I refer in particular to the situation on Nauru.

I have been closely associated with many of the asylum seekers who are now in the community on Temporary Protection Visas. The last two young men who arrived in Australia are 23 years of age. I have followed their agony as they were rejected on several occasions for erroneous reasons. They have subsequently spent over three and a half years in detention before being correctly assessed as genuine refugees. They are now on a three year Temporary Protection Visa, which means their young lives will be on hold for almost seven years. They are unable to go and find their family, they are unable to have any family reunion if they can locate family members, they live with the insecurity of not knowing what will happen at the end of the three years. I see their mental health suffering as a result of this harsh treatment

I strongly believe that their unjust extended detention should be taken into consideration and the length of time to be served on a Temporary Protection Visa should commence from the date of their first incorrect assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Babb