

Re: Inquiry into the administration and operation of the Migration Act 1958

A handful of proven cases of abuse, such as those perpetrated by GSL staff, is usually indicative of a wider problem, and the five proven instances surely demand a Royal Commission to see just how big the problem is. I am a visitor to one Immigration Detention facility, and if even a fraction of what the detainees tell me is proven true, every decent Australian will demand the end of this unfair imprisonment and torture.

One detainee told me how they were made to think they are about to be deported, by putting them in the usual room for this, bringing in the kind of DIMIA officers who do the deporting, and telling them their home country's consulate has been notified. This puts the detainee in a state of utter terror, because their home state is genocidal to this person's kind.

Just about everyone in an IDC knows someone who was then deported, and subsequently killed. This puts them all in fear of their lives. That's what terrorism is.

Detainees are also unfairly stressed because there is no known end to their plight. Even a criminal who robs or kills knows how long their sentence is, and how far away freedom is. Immigration detainees, most of who are law-abiding asylum seekers, face total uncertainty, not knowing how many months or years they have until they will be free or dead. There is no excuse for DIMIA having enough resources to pay thousands of dollars per week per detainee to the profiteer GSL, but not enough resources to obtain or review or translate the necessary documentation to process the detainee's visa applications in a timely fashion.

Yours truly

norrie mAy-welby
Redfern NSW