

Sirs,

I wish to make a public submission to this committee to put on record my despair at the manner in which Immigration officials are carrying out their duties.

My submission concerns the first of the committee's terms of reference.

A) Administration and operation of The Migration Act 1958

I have heard directly from friends about the recent disgraceful removal of 2 Australian children from their school classroom. This coming on top of the revelations about Cornelia Rau and Vivien Solon Young, which have been confirmed by the Palmer Report, make it quite clear that the management of the Immigration department must be demanding a very different standard of administering and operating the act than applied when the act was first drafted.

As a former Managing Director of a large company I fully accepted that my primary responsibility was for the administration and operation of the business. The business of the Immigration Department is to administer and operate this act. I simply cannot understand why the senior executive of the department is not prepared to demonstrate that they accept the responsibility for these clear administrative and operational failures. Instead there are simply excuses made and even what appear to be lies told , in the face of clear evidence of significant failures in administering and operating the Act.

I was originally from overseas (although luckily for me I am English). I was proud of this country and proud to become a citizen. Since the regrettable Tampa incident when myself and my husband first identified what it might have felt like to have been living in the beginnings of demonising Jews in Nazi Germany, it has increasingly become a matter of shame to be an Australian. My many friends and family overseas have been astounded at the revelations concerning the administration and operation of The Migration Act, first of Cornelia Rau, then Vivien Solon Young and now, these poor children.

I do not know what powers this Inquiry has, but I hope they are sufficient to bring about a restoration of humanity and pride in the way in which Australia conducts itself in this most important area of civic life.

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