

Dear Committee Secretary,

As a writer, well-used to working with words, I find it almost impossible to express my dismay at the way we (as a supposedly tolerant people) have treated asylum seekers for many years. It's not a question of whether they should, or shouldn't, be allowed to become Australians, it's about the unforgivably shameful way we have chosen to treat them, merely because they tried to escape the kind of regime we (in our supposed Western wisdom) considered evil enough to help bomb into oblivion. Please accept, as my submission to the committee, a copy of one of my poems, Asylum Seekers, which I am attaching, in a virus screened Word doc.

Thank you, and I sincerely wish the Committee well in its deliberations.

Ian McFarlane
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