

I am writing this submission to be brought before the Senate Inquiry into the Immigration Department, with particular concern regarding the way immigration detention is managed.

I would like to put on record my objection to current practices which violate human rights. I find it appalling that ANY children are kept behind razorwire. I also find it appalling that innocent people are held in prison conditions indefinitely. I am outraged at the practice of indefinite detention.

I find the lack of independent review of the lawfulness of detention and the absence of a maximum time limit for detention of great concern. To hear that we as a nation have held some asylum seekers in detention for a period of more than 3years, and potentially indefinitely, I find to be beyond belief. How is this justifiable?? It is not as far as I am concerned. Even after the passage of the Migration Amendment of June 2005, I consider the current government is still in breach of Article 31(1) of the Refugee Convention and therefore international law which upholds human rights.

I call on the government to institute change in these policies and practices and to implement Amnesty International's recommendations in their recent report "The impact of indefinite detention - the case to change Australia's mandatory detention regime".

I call on the government to

- consider alternative places of detention for ALL detainees unless there is a compelling reason for detention
- authorise a thorough and independent review of all detention centres (including Nauru)
- abolish temporary protection visas
- institute a maximum duration of detention

Yours Sincerely
Ray & Bronwyn Robinson
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