

I have a submission for this committee  
I feel pretty strongly about this issue but I didn't want to make it long and boring  
so i put my thoughts in this poem - trying to say as few words as possible

An Australian Ex-Patriot

I used to love my country  
I used to think it was great  
But now I am starting to wonder  
About the 'enemies' and the 'state'

I was born amongst the eucalypts  
My great great grandfather came over by boat  
When the Maitland struck rocks off Newcastle  
he stumbled ashore without even a coat.

He was pulled from the Pacific ocean  
By Australians who were never in doubt  
That when someone was in real trouble  
You just, simply helped them out

And that's why I loved this country  
It was fair dinkum, we did what was right  
But my ancestors would turn in their graves if they saw  
The most recent arrivals plight

When children start getting used as pawns  
in some political game  
About stopping some illegal trade  
Then it's time to think again

10 year olds are not 'economic migrants'  
They're escaping, they're not being 'transported'  
5 year olds don't pay people smugglers  
they could never possibly afford it

I used to love my country  
'The great egalitarian nation'  
but something's gone wrong when we're locking up kids  
in isolated incarceration.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission

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