

To the Committee Secretary,

Please consider our serious concerns regarding the Migration Amendment (Designated Unauthorized Arrivals) Bill 2006.

For the most part we are proud to be Australian. We wish to thank the government for granting the recently arriving West Papuans Temporary Protection Visas. WE ARE NOT PROUD TO BE AUSTRALIAN when we hear of the proposed changes to the Migration processing policies. We are appalled that the Australian Government is turning from its obligations under International Humanitarian Law.

We strongly encourage the Australian Senate to block the amendments to migration policy.

1. Assylum Seekers are most often fleeing inhumane circumstances. We signed the UN convention agreeing to help these people.
2. Assylum Seekers should be processed on the mainland, with access to health, legal and other professionals as well as friends, the media and other visitors.
3. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE PUT IN DETENTION - the effects are well documented and devastating.
4. Innocent people should not be locked up for what can potentially be years and years.

We find it very upsetting that these amendments have been proposed. We are devastated to think our government may turn back on the recent progress made in releasing children from detention.

The Senate must take a stand on this issue. It is fundamentally un-Australian to consider these changes.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matthew and Joanne Thorpe (Project Manager, Physiotherapist, Parents; East Hawthorn, Victoria).