

July 29, 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make the following submission in regard to the Immigration Detention Reform Bill

- the detention values should apply to Christmas Island, not just mainland Australia. After all, most child asylum seekers are located on Christmas Island.
- the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should state that children should not be detained in any kind of secured immigration detention facility. Currently, children are being detained in facilities that are detention centres in all but name, under guard supervision and unable to come or go freely.
- the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should specify adequate measures for independent, timely review of a person's detention. The Bill in its present form does not include any review measures. Under present policy, a person can be detained for six months before any independent review (by the Ombudsman) and even then, the Ombudsman's recommendations are not enforceable. Six months is too long to be detained on the decision of just one DIAC official.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms) Veronica Waugh