

Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Bill 2014

23rd October 2014

Dear Secretary

I am writing to express my profound concern about the measures being proposed in the above Bill on two key principles:

1. Abuse of power – the proposed changes which will mean that only the Minister can make judgements on individual cases leave too much power in the hands of one man. It should be the independent courts that decide and NOT someone with a political agenda
2. Harm to people – Significant suffering will be caused to vulnerable people who have come here seeking support and instead face being returned to the very real dangers they have fled. Refoulement is not permitted under the Refugee Convention to which Australia is a signatory. The proposed changes will not even permit individuals to plead their case.

I have grave concerns that the Minister is seeking to remove most references to the 1951 Refugee Convention, eroding decades of legal precedent.

Please reject this entire bill and strive to return Australia's values to ones I can be proud of.

Sincerely,

Heather M Inglis