

To: Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Parliament  
House,  
Canberra

Re: Submission regarding Migration Amendment (prohibiting items in  
immigration detention facilities) Bill 2017

From:

Dr. Diane Gosden

Dear Committee Secretary

I have long been concerned about the treatment, under Australian  
policies, of people seeking asylum in Australia.

I have previously seen at first hand the detrimental impact of these  
inhumane policies on the physical and mental health of adults and  
children held in immigration detention centres (IDCs).

This Bill goes further in allowing the use of dogs, and gives  
increased  
powers to strip search detainees, and to search their possessions  
without search warrants.

The Bill also gives the Minister of Immigration powers to determine  
without scrutiny, what will be considered to be 'a prohibited thing'  
in  
regard to what is held by people in the IDCs or brought to them by  
visitors. This essentially gives the Minister the right to un-  
examined  
power over people's lives.

This is unacceptable in a country which has prided itself on being  
based  
on democratic traditions.

As an Australian citizen, I ask you to reject this Bill.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Diane Gosden.