

SUBMISSION RE BILL TO AMEND MIGRATION ACT 1958.

I believe our current policies regarding people held in Detention come from a punitive framework.

Whilst some detainees are unacceptable for residency in Australia due to violent, abusive behaviour, as a visitor to Villawood Detention Centre, it would appear many detainees do not fall into that category and if they do it seems the incident of aberration would appear to be a one-off incident and out of character with the usual behaviour of particular persons – e.g. domestic violence with the person pushed to the limits of endurance – others it seems have committed violence to another whilst under the influence of alcohol – now having not had alcohol for some time.

Many have loved ones living in Australia, others overseas, my submission is to protest the confiscation/abolition of mobile phones, computers, electronic devices which are necessary and invaluable tools to contact family/support networks and source of information. These things help maintain mental health, which if deprived of same will surely quickly deteriorate. It seems focussing on Mobile phones is punitive to the many whilst a minority may abuse this privilege. I would think concern re drugs , etc. would prioritise the use of mobile phones. The Bill mentions mobile phones far more times than drug use, etc.

PLEASE SHOW SOME COMPASSION FOR THE MAJORITY!