

Mrs E Kosanovic

February 9th 2017

Committee Secretary
Parliament Standing Committee
On Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission

RE; PROPOSED MELBOURNE IMMIGRATION TRANSIT ACCOMODATION PROJECT

Dear Committee Secretary.

Please add my name to the submission send in by the Broadmeadows Progress Association. as current President of the BPA I would like to add some extra comments.

The proposed MITA high security upgrade reads as a very contradictory document. it describes reduction in the immigration detention population, yet we now have cohorts of medium to high/criminal detainees, we also have been repeatedly told via media that boat arrivals have all but stopped.

1.1 Policy Framework.

Cohorts of high /medium risk, who are these people.
Visa cancelations, behavioural concerns, criminals, these sweeping statements deny the fact that these are traumatise people, any person locked up in a High Security Facility (on average of one year) as documented, needs extraordinarily resilience to survive the system.

Placing cohorts of detainees of different Nationalities and Culture in high security facility-small pods with common associated amenities is a recipe for disaster. The proposal to provide 2 compounds of 140 high security beds at a cost of 29.5 million is more of the same and lacks innovation.

The High Security Immigration Centre at YONGA HILL W.A where riots occurred, is a stark reminder that this proposal is destined for disaster. High fencing and inhumane conditions are not the way forward.

Co- locating all caseloads to one location to reduce significant operational cost is not the answer. Case loads and cohorts are words devoid of the fact that we are talking about human beings.

This proposal is deeply flawed, and needs to be scrutinised, 29.5 million of taxpayers dollars to hold refugees and detainees in high security would be better spend in programs to educate and assist the asylum seekers to assimilate and promote good citizenship, which could include educating asylum seekers currency living n the community.

The proposal of shared facilities to reduce cost is not an economical option and needs to be addressed. Asylum seekers and people that overstay their visa should not have to share facilities

and with so called hardened criminals. This category of refugees belong in the same system as other criminals living in Australia.

Hume's population is culturally diverse, it suffers high unemployment and has many challenges ahead. Placing a High Security Compound on the MITA site is an added a burden to the stresses the city of Hume faces all ready in 1017

This proposal is not the way forward, it should be rejected.