

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Submission Regarding Migration Amendment (Strengthening Biometrics Integrity) Bill 2015**

Please accept the following submission:

While we understand that the purpose of this Bill, which makes adjustments and repeals to the Migration Act to allow the extended use of biometric data to determine identity at Australia's borders, is to prevent known criminals from entering, we are concerned that it will be used for less honourable intentions. Once passed, it is possible that it will be used as yet another means to deny human rights to asylum seekers and refugees.

Many refugees come from countries where biometric data is not accessible. It would be a serious miscarriage of justice if they were returned, or detained indefinitely, because no baseline biometric data could be sourced for comparison. Provision must be made for asylum seekers to establish their identities in other ways.

Yours sincerely,

Wes and Linda Cusworth