

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

27.3.2015

Migration Amendment (Strengthening Biometrics Integrity) Bill 2015

I can only deduce from the name of this bill that it refers to Biometric markers.

My first concern is the concentration of very **broad** and very **flexible processes** for the collection of these details, under seemingly endless **possible circumstances**, will be concentrated in the hands of the minister (or) an officer. I find this rather “Orwellian,” reminiscent of scenes from horror stories, or ancient lunatic asylums. This may sound overly dramatic, but even modern history tells us of extreme possibilities and liberties that were taken by powerful leaders where no accountability was established. (Nazi Germany through to Guantanamo)

I have been sickened by the **secrecy** that surrounds the treatment of Asylum seekers onshore and offshore.

My main concern is for those deemed: **Unaccompanied Minors** and those considered **Incapable Persons**.

The outright abuse, of the right to protection, of these two groups is alarming.

Who will be dealing with these vulnerable people?

In what circumstance and with what tact, (or lack there-of) will they be affronted with these frightening intrusions into their personal space? And will there be adequate preparation or understanding/ language?

I’m afraid that the recent track record of this government (in particular) has given me no cause for confidence in the outcome of this.

Carolyn Elliott