

Anonymous

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The best way to start this submission would be to explain my personal thoughts on the current policy after extensive work on Nauru so as to ascertain that there is no political agenda. Everything I am saying can be easily and INDEPENDANTLY confirmed. I am not a hippy, civil libertarian, feminist, anarchist, trouble maker or have any political agenda whatsoever. I have travelled the world extensively and am not naive to the ways of the world, until working in Nauru I thought I was emotionally callused. I do to some degree believe in some sort of offshore "processing" policy. The sinister and predatory behaviours that I have personally seen by a percentage of male detainees makes me grateful that they are not walking past anyone that I care about on the streets of Australia. There is a need for offshore "processing" that is done quickly, however the innocent women, children and families that are currently the collateral damage of this policy makes me sick to the stomach and is responsible for my many sleepless nights

The things that I see on Nauru, the conditions, the mental state of the innocent , the misery, the predatory behaviour, the hopelessness, the cruelty, the lack of empathy, makes me sick to the stomach and something that I will never forget. This is compounded by the way the policy is being administered which includes the blatant price gauging and corruption which is widely known and going on unchallenged for a reason I cannot understand. I can only assume that the confidential and sensitive nature of this policy allows greed and autonomous operations to flourish.

Everything that I mention below can be is 100% substantiated. And only the tip of the iceberg

Procurement and supply practices

[REDACTED] in-discrepancies regarding legitimate procurement by the Managing and Principle Construction Contractors. The managing contractor and their subsidiary company [REDACTED] getting used by the principle contractor to supply materials and buildings. There is no transparency and this is going on unchallenged

[REDACTED] Ordinarily [REDACTED] supply 3 genuine quotes for approval, with cost usually the driving factor [REDACTED] pushes for their subsidiary [REDACTED] to go through the Subsidiary company, they submit only price with huge mark-up which is then approved).

Prelim costs

[REDACTED] independent audit that need's to include the plant that is being charged that has 1) never been used or 2) is inoperable, or 3) rarely operable. [REDACTED] the containers full of materials that have sat there for months if not years, not been ordered for anything specifically, just ordered.

[REDACTED]

The attitude is the more that is spent the greater the profit.

[REDACTED]

Quality

[REDACTED] As a Managing and Principle contractor in any situation in the world they are liable for the design and its failures. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] flawed, mainly at RPC 1 which houses construction personnel, Wilson and Broadspectrum.

[REDACTED] condensation and water damage has been created within the wall cavities, floors and ceilings [REDACTED] creating dangerous levels of mould but has/is seriously compromised the fire rated Gypsum and floor board.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. In the case of the flooring, there is complete or partial failure of the structural and fire rating properties causing people to actually start going through the floor [REDACTED] remedial works carried out to date have been a variation to the contract, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This leaves the Government wide open to litigation for not only any respiratory illness we contract, but in the event of a fire the very real risk of casualties (especially as it has already burnt to the ground once). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] these buildings being new.

The kitchen and dinner at RPC1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] mould and rot everywhere and once again compromised fire rated wall linings and significant failings of the fire rated floor structure. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will require a huge cost to bring up to a safe standard

A mould expert was engaged [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was damning to say the very least. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] follow up report however he was cancelled. This was due to fears that the condition of the buildings had gotten considerably worse resulting in risk of a very negative outcome. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A lot of us that live at RPC1 do have a construction background and are very much aware of the situation and the risks we are subject to. There needs to be a 100% independent/ report by a microbiologist, a fire certifier and building inspector. These buildings will not last another year much less the design life that they were supposed to last.

Aggregate supply and program

The supply of Concrete materials and sand on the island has been significantly restricted [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This has been going on for 6 months with no end in sight. [REDACTED] the projects will drag on for years to come. With the allocated construction labour numbers (dictated by available beds) becoming increasingly used for the reworks needed to hide the damage to the failing modular buildings, [REDACTED] costs of the ongoing prelims for a drawn out construction program and unethical procurement will cost an absolute fortune. This cost will be inevitably foot by the tax payer [REDACTED]

The Human Cost

I have seen many of the following typical scenarios however in the interests of being able to submit before the close out date of the end of March I will keep it brief.

- 1 single female refugee who I will call X, she has been in detention for 3 years now, she has rightfully so suffered from anxiety, stress and depression. The result was her being on suicide watch where Male guards both Wilson and Nauruan watched her every move. This included showers and toilet combined with consistent, derogatory, leering and sexual comments. While there are doctors provided for people suffering with mental stress over here, the attitude is indifferent to say the very least. All they do is prescribe pills, mainly sedation, it is sickening to witness. Basically they do not care as long as they are quiet

Ms X also has a 4cm diameter growth inside her which I am not sure about exactly about, however it results in excruciating pain. She spends most of her life in bed, in pain, crying and in a vegetive state. Combined with the mental medication, I have physically seen the pills she gets a day and it is 2/3rds a specimen jar full to keep her quiet. This is wrong on every level and goes against the very moral fabric that makes us a 1st world nation.

- The single women are that terrified about getting refugee status as opposed to asylum seeker status because they will then have to go to unsecure or inadequately secured compounds where they feel even more unsafe, many are sabotaging their own efforts. This is rightfully so, as anyone could verify that has spent time here. The Nauruan women hate them, the Nauruan men and expat men mercilessly harass them unchallenged. I have witnessed at various hotels and shops on the island, they walk in the locals call them sluts or tarts and they leave in tears. I have seen them leaving the compound and getting harassed with Nauruan and Expat Guards asking them how much for the night, abusing them and harassing them. In a lot of cases they are too frightened to even get on the provided buses because of the frequent, unwarranted sexual assaults (which has included the bus drivers) This can be confirmed through the Red Cross that have been on the island this week.

A tactic that is being used to force them into refugee status is that they can't have a smart phone or money otherwise it is confiscated, Once again I feel sick to the stomach as would every Australian that my tax payer dollars is getting spent and justified on such misery.

Stories like this may not move you, however once you look into other human's eyes like I have done and seen nothing but despair, fear and misery from spending your life constantly facing the very real possibility of being abused, assaulted or even raped. It is a very confronting concept when you know that your hard earned money is paying for it

- The children currently have absolutely no hope. They are genuinely and rightfully so, terrified. They are too frightened to go to the schools or to interact meaningfully with the local population. The children that I have gotten to know over the years are good, intelligent kids who constantly and openly get bullied and preyed upon daily, without anyone coming to their aid. This policy is causing immeasurable damage and misery to these innocent kids in what is supposed to be their life defining impressionable years. As a wife and mother the thought of my hard earned tax helping to pay for this is a horrible thought
- Then there is the families- we are able to employ refugees, most have been the best and overly qualified individuals that I ever had the pleasure of working with anywhere in the world. In Nauru the Government will not let any refugee have a job that a Nauruan could occupy. As you can imagine with the way everyone is related the only jobs you can give a family man providing for a family is a job that no Nauruan wants and completely inadequate to be able to support a family. It should be also noted that all construction employees have to sign a contract when they are inducted that they will have no contact or have anything to do with refugees after hours. These hard working men and women are made to feel like lepers no matter how hard they work or the genuinely meaningful contribution they do make

When you get to know these families the one thing that all the men have in common is the look of unforgivable guilt in their eyes because of the position that they have put their families in. It is absolutely tragic

In Summary

The finished result of construction works on the island is substandard. It wouldn't be tolerated in Australia and are putting people mainly the (expats) at significant risk as a lot of money is being made through unethical questionable means.

The money and resources needed to adequately rectify existing new buildings that have failed will greatly inhibit the ability to construct additional infrastructure for the continued detention of the asylum seekers/refugees especially as concrete availability is sabotaging any hope of progress.

There is no way the Nauruan Government will allow any sort of permanent resettlement. The locals wouldn't allow this to happen, as it currently sits it is only a matter of time before something serious happens over there and things come to a head. This policy has no choice but to change, in its current state it is completely unviable, unworkable and will be a bottomless pit of money. Money that being spent on destroying the lives, minds and hopes of some of the planet's most vulnerable.

There is no solution in its current state! In 2 years' time some companies will have dishonestly made a fortune with impunity, the vulnerable will be completely broken. The facilities will be in ruin, a huge amount of money spent, no one resettled, and a Pacific Island nation in complete disarray. This will be very embarrassing on the world stage.

My Opinion

My opinion is that we need to get the vulnerable women, children and families off that island as soon as possible to prevent any more emotional, sexual, physical and verbal abuses. It has been the most horrible situations I have witnessed and I have been to some of the worst places on earth. These people need to be settled and cared for, after all we caused the damage. This needs to be done quietly

There needs to be a hardline approach to who qualifies as an asylum seeker with the one's deemed anything other than a genuine refugee immediately sent home from Nauru. The combination of the boat turn-backs and the media block-out on those activities would adequately work as a deterrent. After everyone has been processed, keep Nauru moth balled in the event it is needed or as a small "processing" centre.

There needs to be an independent audit into the construction works, fire, microbiologists, and quantity surveyor etc to hold people accountable for unethical, corrupt and irresponsible practices.