

SUBMISSION

Re: Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2010



15th November 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

I am very concerned for the 800 or so asylum seeker children and teenagers who are currently in various places of immigration detention on Christmas Island and on the mainland of Australia. Of particular concern to me are those deemed to be unaccompanied minors; all have had the kinds of traumatic experiences which most people in Australia can hardly imagine. I have no doubt that continued detention in current conditions will exacerbate the harmful effects of such trauma even further.

It was horrifying to learn that there are currently three teenage girls in the Darwin Airport Lodge alongside families with different culture and language, and more than 200 boys. The Minister, as guardian, has been informed that these girls should be considered to be children at risk and therefore in need of protection.

I wish to support, most strongly, the very important bill for a Commissioner for Children introduced by Senator Sarah Hanson Young.

Yours sincerely

(Ms) Jean Jordan

c.c. Senator Hanson Young