

Submission to *Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2017* **Bill**

I am a visitor to a Detention Centre. I have been visiting for several years. I do not agree with the changes being put forth by the Minister Peter Dutton.

I would like to begin with this wording in the Amendment, **“Immigration detention facilities now accommodate an increasing number of higher risk detainees awaiting removal, often having entered immigration detention directly from a correctional facility, including child sex offenders and members of outlaw motorcycle gangs or other organised crime groups.** Most of the argument for the amendments relate back to this information in the above wording. This is a vital point.

I would like to comment that these people should not be in Detention Centres with Asylum Seekers. I have been visiting a Detention for several years. Mobile phones are really important to asylum seekers not to deal with crime but to contact families and loved ones. These people have a legal right to be provided with safety in our country. They are not prisoners in a goal.

We are continually told by the Minister that the changes are for the safety of Visitors, Asylum seekers and the workers. However these are only words as the changes recently of food that visitors can bring is really unhealthy. Also the banning of mobile phones would cause stressed to people already stressed and traumatise.

Bringing in sniffer dogs may be suitable in an airport; maybe in a goal but to bring them into a Detention Centre which houses people who have fled persecution and torture; who have taken a risky journey because they are in fear of their lives seems a really inhuman act. As a visitor who genuinely cares for human beings and attempts to respect the rules and requests of the Serco Guards I would feel very threatened if there were sniffer dogs. It is humiliating enough to be scan for drugs before I visit.

I see no reason for these new changes— maybe in a gaol but not in a Detention Centre