

To the committee

In my 61 years and 12 years of writing submissions to the senate legal and constitutional committee I have never come across the depraved notion that in a democracy based on the rule of law and separation of powers can keep certain information free of scrutiny from the public.

We are not at war with anyone, asylum seekers are not criminals who must be hidden from view and tortured by us in breach of every human rights treaty we have helped to write and to agree to.

It's more than odd that Senator Cash who used to even ask if refugees in prison get cigarettes, if children have access to computers and schools would now want total secrecy when she is in charge.

I feel such revulsion and disgust for the present arguments but the senate must remember that nothing has been legislated, ergo nothing is law to date and cannot be law just because the minister says so.

If our government is going to commit human rights violations to the extent that they are they must be completely open about it.

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