

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

7.31 The committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, as a matter of urgency, commission an external review of its medical transfer procedures in offshore processing centres.

Recommendation 2

7.38 The committee recommends that the Australian Government undertake to seek advice in relation to whether improvements are required to the medical treatment options available to asylum seekers and refugees in the Republic of Nauru and Papua New Guinea, particularly mental health services.

Recommendation 3

7.41 The committee recommends that the Australian Government recognise the impacts of long-term immigration detention, including by commissioning an independent assessment of its impacts on physical and mental health.

Recommendation 4

7.46 The committee recommends that an external audit and investigation be conducted into all incident reports over the life of the Transfield Pty Ltd and Broadspectrum Australia Pty Ltd contracts at the Manus Island and Nauru Regional Processing Centres, including an analysis of:

- (a) incidents which were downgraded in severity; and
- (b) any inconsistencies in relation to incidents being downgraded in severity; and
- (c) evidence of follow-up activities in relation to reported incidents.

Recommendation 5

7.51 The committee recommends that the Australian Government undertake to work with the Government of the Republic of Nauru to establish an independent children's advocate who would have both the jurisdiction and authority to advocate for the rights of children being held in the Republic of Nauru.

Recommendation 6

7.55 The committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection confirm publicly that any asylum seeker or refugee who has been transferred to Australia for medical or other reasons, or who remains in Australia pursuant to domestic legal action, can apply to participate in the US refugee resettlement arrangement, and that they will not need to return to either the Republic of Nauru or Papua New Guinea to do so.

Recommendation 7

7.57 The committee recommends that the Australian Government give serious consideration to all resettlement offers it receives, including the Government of New Zealand's offer to resettle refugees from Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Nauru. Further, if particular resettlement offers are considered unsuitable, the Government should clearly outline the reasons.

Recommendation 8

7.59 The committee recommends that the Australian Government give consideration to supporting refugee and asylum seeker family members to pursue options to resettle together.

Recommendation 9

7.60 The committee recommends that the Australian Government increase Australian funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Recommendation 10

7.61 The committee recommends that the Australian Government commit to increasing Australia's annual refugee intake.

Recommendation 11

7.64 The committee recommends that the Australian Government undertake to work with Australia's Asia-Pacific neighbours to establish a regional framework for the processing of claims for asylum.

Recommendation 12

7.70 The committee recommends that the Australian Government review the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to ensure that Comcare can exercise its regulatory powers in relation to Australian workplaces outside Australia's geographical jurisdiction, in a timely and straightforward manner.