

Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee  
Enquiry into the Administration and Operation of the Migration Act 1958

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(e) Any related matters:

Notably absent from most of the spoken and written discussion about the administration and operation of the Migration Act by DIMIA is the plight of those asylum seekers released from detention on the Bridging Visa E.

Because the Minister has stated that these people have been released from detention the Australian community naturally assumes that they are leading a normal life of freedom. What the Minister has not explained is that unlike criminals who, on their release have the right to work, have access to Medicare and social services, asylum seekers, men, women and children, who are accused of no crime are entitled to none of these.

Under these draconian restrictions they would die from hunger and exposure but for the financial support of church and welfare workers and refugee supporters who struggle to supply them with very basic needs. If they do attempt to support themselves by working they are detained again.

Added to the cruel denial of their most elementary physical needs, is the psychological strain imposed on already traumatised people not only by their mendicant status but also by the knowledge that at any time they may be detained again, or deported.

It is my submission that the Bridging Visa E should be abolished and that these human beings should be given the right to work and to have access to medical, social and educational services.

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