

21/7/05

As a concerned citizen of Australia I request a Senate Enquiry into the Mandatory Detention system be undertaken which enables all the facts to become public . One in which those concerned in the administration of the system are not permitted to remain silent.

The Palmer Report was a start but went nowhere near far enough and left too many questions unanswered.

How many individuals have been forcibly deported and on what grounds and just what human rights violations have those incarcerated in detention centres been subjected to?

For example, only yesterday, news of the two children seized from their school some months ago and only just released after enduring conditions no child should experience, came to light.

The media has enabled us to glimpse some of these injustices, perpetrated in our name whether we agree or not, and Ministers Vanstone and Ruddock , I consider, should be made accountable.

We supposedly live in a democracy which hitherto has had a reputation for fair play. This has not been the case since John Howard 'orchestrated' the Tampa episode in 2001 and it is time we learned all the facts high levels of secrecy have kept from us.

Only then can our system of government in 2005 be deemed to be a democracy still.

In summary, I consider there needs to be an enquiry into the administration and operation of the Migration Act 1958 with particular attention being paid to Terms of Reference A, B and C.

Sincerely,

Judy Witney
LARDNER