

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia.

Inquiry into the administration and operation of the Migration Act 1958.

**Term of Reference:**

**C: Adequate healthcare, including mental healthcare, and other services and assistance provided to people in immigration detention.**

We are of the opinion that the humane care in general for people in immigration detention seem to be abysmal. Considerations to age, gender, religion, culture and adverse experiences during their effort to reach Australia seem to be alien to the management personnel and the officers of the Department of Immigration.

Too many cases of ill-treatment or non treatment of mental health and general health issues came to light.

Reasonable request for support in educational reading and writing materials seem to be met with suspicion.

Access to the immigration detainees by legal and health specialists is made very difficult by petty “rules” of the detention management.

Immigration Department officials are experts in passing the responsibilities to other staff and keeping a deep silence.

Solitary-management-treatment of people in detention as a result of inappropriate actions of frustrated and inadequately trained and supervised “prison” wardens is a blight on humane, fair and equal treatment of the citizens of our world.

Less “problems” would occur when the detainees would be released immediately and given the opportunity to live in the community.

Initial investigation detention to be 30 to maximum 90 days.

**Term of Reference:**

**D: Outsourcing of Management and Service provision at immigration detention centres.**

The outsourcing to an International Prison management company to care for the needs and requirements of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, locked up behind razor wire and “activated” fences is asking for ill-management.

Accountability of the outsourced company and Department of Immigration officers seem to be non-existent.

Adequate care for the basic physical and mental needs of the detainees of all ages and gender seem to be too much of a task and part of the “care for profit” motive of the private organisation.

Immigration Detention centres should be managed and staffed by the Department of Immigration and the stay of detainees should be limited to 30 days or maximum 90days for the initial investigations.

Asylum seekers are much better cared for in the community.

Christine and Bert Fabel  
FOSTER 3960