

Mike Murphy
Warwick, Qld.

27.07.05

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

Dear Secretary,

I ask the committee to demand a Royal Commission so the inquiry has the power to be wide ranging in scope and have the teeth to bite deeply enough to expose the truth. The inquiry needs to be seen to be impartial and honest so that the Australian people can have their faith restored, not only in the immigration system, but in the government itself.

The credibility, humanity, integrity and democracy of the Australian Government and its institutions have been exposed as a sham in recent years by the behaviour of DIMIA. This department carried out the policies and directions of its masters, the Government and its mouthpieces, Mr. Ruddock and Ms. Vanstone.

By outsourcing the operation of its detention centers, the authorities have tried to distance themselves from the activities carried out on their behalf. Even the fear-engendering, divisive rhetoric of "preserve border integrity", "protect against terrorism", "illegals and "queue jumpers" has now worn thin within the wider community.

The Howard government is fairly and squarely responsible for all aspects of our immigration detention system and all of its failings. The examples of callous disregard of human rights and natural justice are all too well known to need to be documented again and no amount of "spin" will make them go away. They are an ugly, despicable and unnecessary stain on this country and all who live in it.

The pain, shame, degradation, fear and disregard this nation visited on people who came here to ask for help can never be excused. But don't allow this inhumanity to be made any worse by the lying and conniving and covering up of any inquiry less than a Royal Commission.

This nation consists of its people, all of its people, and we demand the rights of any democratic people. We want our elected representatives to represent us not the party hierarchy. We want our representatives to speak out on our behalf

not their own nor their masters. We demand the courtesy and respect of being listened to and then represented.

To reach the truth, a Royal Commission into the processes of DIMIA will need to be far more extensive than just examining the culture existing and condoned in one department. There is no easy or polite way to expose the terrible, repeated abuse of innocent people who largely are fleeing in fear from countries that Australia has invaded.

I think it is time for justice and honesty and I plead for this inquiry to stand up and do what is right. Thank you.

I remain,

Mike Murphy