

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry into the provisions of the Migration Amendment (Designated Unauthorised Arrivals) Bill 2006

I was able to meet most of the people who left Nauru in November 2006.

That was when, after more than 4 years, they were finally brought to Australia because of their worsening mental health. Prior to that, through hundreds of emails, I had witnessed their deteriorating condition. I spent several days with them in Melbourne, and have since given ongoing support to one of them as he attempts to restart his life in the city where I live.

I remain in total disbelief that the Australian Government is even considering excising Australia from its own migration zone and sending future asylum seekers to Nauru. Such action is not only opposed by Church leaders and Amnesty International - but is in flagrant breach of human rights and dignity.

I ask the Senate to oppose this Bill.

Helen Leeder

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