

19th May 2006

To the Secretary
The Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Parliament House. Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Re the Migration Amendment (Designated Unauthorised Arrivals) Bill 2006

We request your Committee to recommend that this Bill is rejected for the following reasons –

1. If the Bill becomes law Australia will contravene the Refugee Convention and the International Convention on the Rights of Children to both of which she is a signatory.
2. Many of the positive changes that were made to the Immigration Laws in 2005 will be invalidated.
3. Children may be in detention indefinitely. Adults who have been assessed as Refugees may have to wait for years to be transferred to another country willing to give them a safe haven
4. The cost to this country of maintaining off-shore centres for refugees will escalate alarmingly, and these centres will lack the services, facilities and oversight which are available on the mainland.
5. Australia will be disgraced internationally.

Yours sincerely

J.J.C. Smart

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E.M. Smart

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