

Submission to the Legal affairs and Community Safety Committee
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12th March 2016

Regarding Human Rights for People being held in Detention.

To Whom It May Concern,

May I request that the committee consider when detaining people seeking asylum that these basic standards be met for their care as specified below:

Accommodation should be clean, dry and secure. People should not be housed in building or tents where the temperature inside the building is more than 30 degrees at all times and no less than 16 degrees...
Any building they are housed in should have sufficient air flow.

Their bathroom facilities should be clean and sanitary, with access to soap and toilet paper.
They must be provided with beds and blankets and also protection from mosquitoes and rodents.

They require plentiful access to water and allowed the same amount of showering time as considered reasonable to Australian residents in drought conditions.

They should have access to nutritious and varied food, fresh vegetable as fruit and supplied with enough protein such as meat fish and eggs to keep them healthy.

They should not be expected to consume any food which they are forbidden by their religion or any food to which they are allergic. They should have access to caffeine and dairy products, especially milk for milk supplements for children...

All people detained should have immediate access to English classes so they may communicate. Classes on Australian law should also be available so people seeking asylum are aware of the laws under which they will be living. This should include equal rights for both sexes and what constitutes child neglect or assault.

Children below the age of 16 should have access to appropriate a basic education for their ability.
There should be ample sheltered space for children and adults to have recreation time.

They should have access to information i.e. Government updates regarding their situation and access to a Basic English library and radio.

They must have access to basic medical treatment and drugs which will protect them and others from illness.

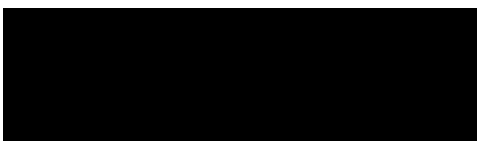
They should have access to psychiatric help and assessment to ensure they are not a danger to themselves or others whilst being held in detention.

Any detainees who harm others should be removed and detained separately.
Detainees should be free from harassment physical, mental or sexual by others or the officials in the centre.

Any complaints regarding mistreatment should be investigated with the same standards as we would in any Australian school or workplace.

They should have access to an occupational therapist if they are detained for a period of over three months to ensure they have activities to keep them occupied whilst in detention.

The maximum time for detention should be no longer than 12 months



Signed:

Margaret Teresa Cruickshank, .