

Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2020

Date: 14 May 2020

Chamber: House of Representatives

Status: Before Senate

Portfolio: Home Affairs

Summary

Amends the Migration Act 1958 to: enable the minister to determine, by legislative instrument, prohibited things (including controlled drugs, prescription drugs not taken by the person to whom they are prescribed, mobile phones, SIM cards and internet-capable devices) in relation to immigration detention facilities and detainees; enable authorised officers and assistants to search Commonwealth immigration detention facilities without a warrant; strengthen the search and seizure and screening powers of authorised officers; and enable the minister to issue binding written directions to authorised officers in relation to the exercise of their seizure powers.

Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019

Date: 04 Jul 2019

Chamber: House of Representatives

Status: Before Senate

Portfolio: Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs

Summary

Amends the Migration Act 1958 to: amend the character test by providing grounds to consider visa cancellation or refusal where a non-citizen has been convicted of offences involving violence against a person, weapons, breaching of an apprehended violence order (or similar) or non-consensual sexual acts; and make consequential amendments.

Migration and Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Information Provisions) Bill 2020

Date: 10 Dec 2020

Chamber: House of Representatives

Status: Before House of Representatives

Portfolio: Home Affairs

Summary

Amends the: Migration Act 1958 to: create a framework to protect disclosure of confidential information provided by gazetted intelligence and law enforcement agencies where the information is used for decisions made to refuse or cancel a visa on character grounds, or revoke or set aside such decisions; amend the definition of non-disclosable information to include protected information where the disclosure of such information would be contrary to Australia's national interests; and provide that an officer performing certain functions commits an offence if protected information is disclosed in certain circumstances; Australian Citizenship Act 2007 to: protect protected information where the information is used for certain citizenship decisions, renunciations of citizenship by conduct, and cessation of citizenship for service outside

Australia in armed forces of an enemy country or a declared terrorist organisation; and create a framework for the management of the disclosure to, and by, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal of information that has been certified by the minister to be contrary to the public interest for specified reasons, or that was provided in confidence; and create a power for the secretary to delegate functions or powers under the Act and the Australian Citizenship Regulation 2016; Freedom of Information Act 1982 and Inspector of Transport Security Act 2006 to make consequential amendments; and Australian Citizenship Act 2007 and Migration Act 1958 to make amendments contingent on the commencement of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Act 2020.



Refugee Action Collective (Vic)

Free the refugees! Let them land, let them stay!

Government must drop three new anti-refugee Bills

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Statement

Government must drop three new anti-refugee Bills

by RAC | August 24, 2021

The Refugee Action Collective (Victoria) joins with other refugee supporters in calling on the federal government to abandon three pieces of proposed legislation before parliament.

As the world watches in horror as the humanitarian crisis unfolds in Afghanistan, the Australian government is being asked to demonstrate more compassion not less. These Bills seem at odds with current community expectations.

The Bills are an attempt to revive previously discredited measures and impose an even harsher and inequitable regime on refugees and asylum-seekers. The Bills have nothing to do with good governance and are set to drive people already in mental distress even further into despair.

As the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has rightly said: "The suite of Bills targets refugees, people seeking asylum and other migrants who are in immigration detention or facing visa cancellation or refusal.

"If passed, these Bills would cause more people to be held in indefinite detention, potentially for the rest of their lives, or to be deported to countries where they face serious harm or have little connection to, with many also facing permanent separation from their Australian spouses and children."

The three Bills are:

- The Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention) Bill 2020 – which will, if passed, allow the Minister to prevent refugees and people seeking asylum from having everyday items, such as mobile phones, while in detention.
- The Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019 – which will introduce arbitrary and unreasonably low thresholds for the Minister to revoke or refuse visas for people based on the maximum possible sentence they could receive, rather than the sentence they actually received.
- The Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Information Provisions) Bill 2020 – which will allow the Minister to use secret information to revoke the visas of refugees and people seeking asylum.

RAC (Vic) believes that the current suite of laws governing refugees and asylum-seekers is already draconian and that these Bills represent another severe attack on human rights.

In particular, RAC acknowledges the enormous part that access to a mobile phone plays for those in detention – to contact friends, family and lawyers, and to monitor and record potential breaches of their rights by the detention system.

At a time when the government should be focused on major issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the dangers posed by global warming, and poverty, introducing these new Bills designed to harm some of the most vulnerable in our society is petty, cruel and capricious.

RAC calls on the ALP, Greens and cross-bench MPs and senators to oppose these new Bills with the utmost vigour.

We pledge to campaign against them with all the COVID-safe measures at our disposal.

Tweets by @racvictoria

RAC Victoria Retweeted



Tom F

@TomFiebig

@racvictoria's 5 urgent demands on #Afghanistan. If you're involved with anything (e.g. #union, student organisation, local/ethnic group etc.), try & get a motion with these demands passed!

When you do, notify us at refugeeactioncollective@gmail.com rac-vic.org/2021/08/17/afg...

Afghanistan refugee crisis: five urgent demands | Refugee Action Collective (Vic)
rac-vic.org

Sep 6, 2021

RAC Victoria Retweeted



Project Free Child

@ChilOutRevived

Your daily reminder that there are still 90 people who've been brought to Australia and have been held indefinitely for over 8 years — among them children who've been held so long they're now adults @karenandrewsmp it is in your power to free them today #gameover #auspol

Sep 2, 2021

RAC Victoria Retweeted



RAC Sydney

@rac_sydney

Replying to @rac_sydney

"Many detainees have underlying medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to serious illness. The people in immigration detention should be released. It is a disgrace that they have not been released before this. It's time for the government to act."

Sep 4, 2021

RAC Victoria Retweeted



RAC Sydney

@rac_sydney

Replying to @rac_sydney

"The federal and state governments have been warned so many times that it was just a matter of time. The federal government's own literature says detention centres are a danger zone," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

Sep 4, 2021

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