



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.

PO Box 90 Nedlands WA 6009

www.afgw.org.au

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28 July 2014

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women. AFGW is affiliated with the International Federation of University Women. IFUW was founded in 1919 and it is significant that their theme for IFUW day this past June is 'Education for girls and women in detention, displacement and refugee camps'.

In Australia we are especially concerned about the impact that prolonged detention is having on accompanied children in detention on Christmas Island and unaccompanied minors on Manus Island. In particular, we deplore the effect the current situation will have on these children's mental health since none of the life flourishes cited by the Black Dog Institute as criteria for wellbeing are available to them, such as social integration, mastery over one's environment, personal growth and purpose in life

Moreover, we believe that current policy contradicts basic human rights in areas such as protection, detention, degradation and especially education.

Children in detention do not even have the basic components for happiness: someone to care about, something to look forward to and something to do. Indeed, it would seem that every criterion for human wellbeing and mental health has been forfeited by denying these children access to community living.

We ask that you strive to bring Australia to a position where it can lead the world in supporting natural justice.

Please find attached our 2002 submission to the National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention. We find it appalling that nothing has changed.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Madeleine M. Laming
President, Australian Federation of Graduate Women
and
Dr Caroline Jones
National AFGW Convenor for Peace, Human Rights and Human Security

Registered address:
10/27 Collingwood Street, Drummoyne, NSW. 2047

ABN 93 656 106 863
ARBN 135 684 990