

Report on Nauru processing centre a positive step

The Law Council of Australia has welcomed the [Report](#) by the Select Committee on the Commonwealth Government's responsibilities in the management and operation of the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru.

The Law Council President Mr Duncan McConnel commended the Committee's many recommendations that would make the processing system fairer and safer for people in detention facilities.

"Australia has duty of care obligations and responsibilities for the health and safety of detainees, so establishing effective, independent monitoring and review of detention centres is important to preventing the future risk of physical and sexual abuse," said Mr McConnel.

The majority Report's recommendations for greater transparency of conditions and operations at the Nauru processing centre also align with the Law Council's [Asylum Seeker Policy](#).

The Government Senators' dissenting Report sets out that effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms are already in place. The Government has also noted that certain improvements to the Regional Processing Centre have been made or are in train, such as the commitment to and planning for the educational needs of asylum seeker and refugee children in Nauru.

"While improvements have been made, the Report recommends further action. In particular, we urge the Government to prioritise the processing of children so they are removed from centres as soon as practicable.

"Overall, the Committee's Report is a positive step in safeguarding those seeking refuge and I welcome any effort by the Government to keep the Australian public informed of progress on ongoing improvements to off-shore processing centres," Mr McConnel concluded.

Read the [Law Council's submission](#) to the Select Committee on Recent Allegations relating to Conditions and Circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru.

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