



New South Wales  
Council for  
Civil Liberties

NSW COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

PO BOX A1386, SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW 1235 AUSTRALIA

e: [office@nswccl.org.au](mailto:office@nswccl.org.au)

p: 02 8090 2952

f: 02 8580 4633

[www.nswccl.org.au](http://www.nswccl.org.au)

29 June 2020

To members of the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee, Australian Senate.

Dear Senator,

The Refugee Action Collective of Victoria (RACV) has proposed that the Legal and Constitutional Committee ask the Department of Home Affairs a large number of questions about matters of fact before you meet with them on July 3 in the pursuit of your inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Detention Facilities) Bill 2020. The true answers to those questions may well undermine completely the case that has been made for the Bill in the Explanatory Memorandum and the Minister's second reading speech.

Although the New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties believes that there are strong grounds for rejecting the Bill outright that are for the most part independent of the matters that the RACV raises, we nevertheless urge you to do as the RACV requests.

Failure to present relevant facts until parliamentary committee hearings are underway, or by taking questions on notice, till after those hearings are complete, prevents transparency, and betrays a lack of commitment to democracy.

In addition to the question the RACV ask, we request you, also, to ask:

How many landline telephones are available in each compound or separate section of each detention facility? For what hours are they available? And how many detainees are there in each of those facilities?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michelle Falstein'.

Michelle Falstein

Secretary,  
New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties