

Submission Writing Guide: Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024

What is a submission?

A submission is evidence that you will provide to a parliamentary committee in writing, informed by your views and experiences to a parliamentary inquiry, typically on a new law that is being debated in the parliament (a bill).

Why write a submission?

Every submission can be powerful and has the potential to influence the committee that will make a recommendation to the government. By sharing your experiences and opinions with the committee you have an opportunity to influence the laws that are being proposed.

When is my submission due?

Submissions to this inquiry are due by **Friday 12 April 2024**.

What happens to my submission?

The evidence that you provide will be considered by a committee who will then make a recommendation to the parliament on how the proposed law should be treated, if it is the view of the committee that a bill should pass or not, and any amendments that should be made to the bill. **This report will be made by 7 May 2024.**

Your submission will be given to the committee members to read. The committee will decide whether to accept your submission and whether to publish it. **You can request that your submission is kept confidential or published anonymously.**

Your submission is not automatically accepted and published. Due to high workload, the committee may take several weeks to consider and process your submission. You will be told whether or not the committee has accepted your submission.

What if I can't write a submission due to accessibility reasons?

The Australian Parliament website has provided a way to convert spoken word to text via your mobile device or computer. Please find links for these tools below:

iPhone – [read](#) | [watch](#)

Android – [read](#) | [watch](#)

MacOS – [read](#) | [watch](#)

Microsoft – [read](#) | [watch](#)

How do I send my submission?

There are two electronic ways you can send in a submission.

- Upload your submission directly to the committee via the secure parliament website. Create an account [here](#). Sign in, then upload your submission to the inquiry on the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024.
- Email your submission directly to legcon.sen@aph.gov.au with the subject line Migration Amendment Submission.

Alternatively, you can post your submission, but remember submissions for this inquiry close on a **Friday April 12 2024**. To post a submission address an envelope to:

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Helpful Links

[Joint media release from Democracy in Colour, Human Rights Legal Centre, and Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.](#)

[Migration Amendment \(Removal and other Measures\) Bill Explainer](#)

[More information on the Migration Amendment Bill](#)

[Parliamentary details on the Migration Amendment Bill](#)

Key Dates

Friday 12 April 2024

Submissions due

Monday 15 April 2024

Public Senate hearing

Tuesday 7 May 2024

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Report due

What should I write about?

We are calling for people to write submissions into the government's Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024, which was rushed through parliament at the end of March. The proposed laws contained in this bill would give the immigration minister extreme powers to compel a person to assist in their own deportation, and to impose a travel ban preventing people from certain nationalities from entering Australia.

Democracy in Colour is recommending that this bill not be passed in any form.

The measures contained in this bill are discriminatory. They would allow the government to discriminate against entire countries of people based purely on their nationality. As well as committing people fleeing persecution and harm to a cycle of detention and jail. Rather than helping these people to live the life that we all deserve, respecting their human rights and abiding by international law, the government is trying to further punish people – including people who have already served up to a decade of immigration detention.

It is important for the Committee considering the Bill to receive as many submissions as possible from people who will be directly affected by it.

If you believe you will be directly affected – for example, because you have been refused a permanent visa, and have no other options to remain in Australia, it is important that you talk about your situation in as much detail as you can, because that will leave an impression on the Committee.

As mentioned, you can ask the Committee to keep your identity private, and not to publish your submission if you wish.

Example Submission Structure

Introduction

Who are you?

In this section explain to the committee who you are and why you have decided to write a submission to this inquiry. This may include your background or the communities that you are a part of. Anything about yourself that you think is relevant to the main topic of the submission you are making as well as what motivated you to write the submission. When writing about your motivations, please refer to your personal motivations or concerns.

Body

What are problems/concerns you have with the bill?

In this section explain what you are concerned about and why. If there are ways the proposed laws could impact yourself or people in your community this is the section to explain this. The more information that you can provide about the direct impact these laws could have the more powerful your submission will be.

The main issues and concerns with this bill are:

- **Coercion of migrants and refugees.**

It would give the minister the power to force people to do things that would facilitate their deportation, potentially to a country where they fear persecution or significant harm, or risk a prison sentence.

- **Criminalisation**

Putting people in prison for at least 1 year and up to 5 years will not coerce them into returning to countries where they risk persecution or death (some of these people have been in detention for 10 years already), it will only extend and worsen their suffering.

- **Reversal of protection findings**

Allowing the Minister to decide that a person who was previously found to be a refugee is no longer owed protection. This would allow the person to be deported to the country they fled from.

- **Imposing a Travel ban**

It would give the minister the power to ban entire countries of people from applying for a visa which is discriminatory, excluding people based on their nationality. This has the potential to separate families, deport people back to countries where they may face persecution, and other dire unintended consequences.

- **Extreme powers that it gives a single minister**

If passed, these laws would allow the immigration minister to decide which countries are “removal concern countries” and therefore prevent people from those countries from entering Australia. There is no mechanism to decide this outside of the minister’s opinion and consultation with the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. This is an extreme overreach of power.

When you describe a problem or concern, also try to provide an example that explains why this is important to you as an individual.

Is it something that could impact you directly?

Are you concerned for your community or specific individuals in your community?

Summary

What should happen next?

Discuss the more humane approach that our government should take. While we may not all be legal experts, what we do know is how people should be treated, particularly those who are in need or fleeing persecution. If possible, relate this back to your community again.

Submission Template

You can follow the template below. Please fill in the bolded sections with the appropriate information.

Your name

Address

Contact email

Phone number

Submission to the inquiry on the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024.

My name is **XXX** and I am writing to you from **XXX (suburb, electorate etc)**. I am **(elaborate on your personal history, if you migrated where did you migrate from and what was your experience)**. I have written this submission to express my deep concern about the measures contained in this bill.

Specifically, I have concerns about the consequences of these measures and how they could directly impact my community as well as the risk to our way of life that may result from the powers that this bill provides to a single minister.

I have direct experience with the migration system and understand the power imbalance that exists between an individual and the government. This is exacerbated even further if you are a person fleeing persecution. I believe that the measures contained within this bill are harsh and disproportionate. Allowing the government to coerce an individual into taking actions against their better judgement is deeply concerning. This combined with the new power to be able to reverse a protection finding may result in people who are genuinely at risk of persecution to be forced into situations that put them at risk. As a person who has experienced **XXX** I am deeply concerned what this could mean for the many people who find themselves in these kinds of situations.

The criminalisation of people who find themselves in this situation is cruel and will only lead to further harm. Any prison sentence in relation to these matters is extreme and serves to re-enact Australia's indefinite detention regime that has resulted in suffering for many years. What's worse is that these new measures compound this cruelty by criminalising these people. Provide personal context if possible.

The power contained within this bill to allow the immigration minister to ban entire countries of people from applying for a visa based on their nationality is extreme overreach. This is a measure that will have many unintended consequences and negative repercussions for many Australians who have family in these countries. Care and compassion are values that my community holds in very high regard. For our government to not show the same compassion or understanding is unthinkable. Rather than banning people from coming to our country, separating families and imposing more cruelty on people in need we should be finding ways to give people the opportunities they need to live a good life. **Provide personal context if possible.**

Rather than forcing people back to countries where their safety is threatened or imprisoning them, our government should be overhauling a system that has imposed systemic cruelty onto those who are seeking safety. Our communities are compassionate and caring, these are core Australian values that have helped us all to create the society that we all benefit from today. We want our government to reflect the compassion of our communities in its policies and approach to those in need. This bill does none of that, instead it takes us backwards and imposes cruelty while expanding government powers in extreme and unnecessary ways.

Sincerely,

XXXX

Easy English Version

You can follow the template below. Please fill in the bolded sections with the appropriate information.

You can also check out the [Easy English Submission Guide](#).

Note: You can request that your submission is kept confidential or published anonymously.

Your name

Address

Contact email

Phone number

Submission to the inquiry on the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024.

My name is **XXX** and I am writing to you from **XXX (suburb)**.

- **Tell the government who you are and your personal story, if you migrated to Australia where did you migrate from and what was your experience**
- **Tell the government why you are worried about this bill**
- **Tell the government how this bill affects you or your community**
- **Tell the government what you want them to do instead - tell them you do not support this bill.**

Sincerely,

XXXX (Your name)