**The “Good Order Bill” is NO GOOD**

**“These amendments to the Migration Act will, in effect, result in guards being authorised to beat asylum seekers in detention to death, on the basis that they reasonably believe it is necessary – for some reason – to do so”   
 Stephen Charles, former Victorian Supreme Court Judge**



**The “Maintaining the Good Order of Immigration Detention Facilities” bill says:**

*An authorised officer may use such reasonable force against any person or thing as the authorised officer reasonably believes is necessary, to (a) protect the life, health or safety of any person (including the authorised officer) in an immigration detention facility; or   
(b) maintain the good order, peace or security of an immigration detention facility.*

An “authorised officer” need only fulfil qualification requirements set out in writing by the minister. Detention centre guards can have just a Certificate II in security operations.

The people they would be authorised to use force against are vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, who may have fled torture or persecution. They include women and children, babies, the elderly, people with illness or disability, people with severe mental health problems due to trauma and prolonged detention, people with limited English.

Authorised officers would be able to use as much force as they "reasonably believe" is necessary to move a person against their will, to end a peaceful protest, to prevent self-harm. It is not clear what measures will ensure force is used only as a last resort.   
**This bill would give a detention centre security guard greater powers to use force than a state or federal police officer – with less oversight.**

Subjecting someone to excessive force violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. If an asylum seeker wished to complain of being subjected to excessive force, they would have to complain to the DIBP secretary, who would decide whether it was appropriate to investigate the complaint. From a legal point of view, it would be very difficult to prove that an authorised officer did not "reasonably believe" the amount of force they used was necessary.

Dutton attempted to justify these measures by referring to the "changing  
 demographic" of immigration detention centres. Refugees and asylum seekers should not be detained at all. They should certainly not be detained alongside convicted criminals awaiting deportation. The government has created a dangerous situation for refugees and asylum seekers in detention. Now it wants to put them at further risk of harm.

**The “Good Order Bill” has passed in Parliament, but not in the Senate.   
Contact senators to demand that this bill be rejected.**