

## **Free at Last! GetUp applauds detention policy but calls for firm legislation to bind it**

Senator Evans' announcement that detention will be used only as a last resort and for the shortest possible time is major step forward, but now legislative change must follow to set it in stone.

"This government must ensure that no change of heart or government can turn this policy around. **Only by amending the Migration Act itself will the presumption of detention be reversed,**" said GetUp's Executive Director Brett Solomon.

"A decision to deprive a person of their liberty should not be subject to policy whim, and now with the mandate of the Australian people the government should legislate accordingly."

**GetUp's campaign to end mandatory detention, launched last week and signed by over 20,000 Australians, is close to achieving its goal – a practical end to mandatory detention," said Solomon.**

"The move is a victory for all of those who have stood up to reject this inhumane system; the tens of thousands of people who have signed petitions, participated in protests, and talked to their friends and family about asylum seekers."

**A chilling video supporting GetUp's campaign to end mandatory detention can be found at:**

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/EndMandatoryDetention>

GetUp intends to continue its campaign, recognising that the journey from Mr Evans' speech to a concrete change in the law can be a precarious one.

Mr Solomon said "Now, more than ever, it is crucial that the community to show its support for fundamental and unshakeable change.

**For more information please contact Brett Solomon on 0407 419 320.**

***About GetUp:** GetUp.org.au is an independent movement to build a progressive Australia. GetUp brings together like-minded people who want to bring participation back into our democracy. GetUp has over 250,000 members nationwide.*