

The detention of asylum seekers in the European Union and Australia

Citation for published version (APA):

Provera, M. A. (2013). The detention of asylum seekers in the European Union and Australia. Oisterwijk: Wolf Legal Publishers.

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2013

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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Propositions

of the dissertation

The Detention of Asylum Seekers in the European Union and Australia
- *A Comparative Analysis*

by Mark Provera

1. Subscription to international human rights conventions is not, of itself, a sufficient basis for the trust that States place in each other or that individuals place in States in relation to the treatment of asylum seekers.
2. The European Union and Australia are primarily concerned with immigration control over humanitarian concerns.
3. The principle of proportionality has the potential to be a powerful shield against unjustified intrusions on the right to liberty – that is, if it is not being used as a sword.
4. The effective review of detention decisions encompasses more than just judicial review but also knowledge of one's rights, physical (and, where necessary, financial) access to lawyers and external agencies or organisations.
5. The European Union's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights may finally give the Union the "complete system of legal protection" it always thought it had.
6. The best interests of an unaccompanied minor can only be advanced and protected by a guardian who has no other conflicting interests or roles.
7. To safeguard its own jurisdiction, there is merit in the High Court of Australia following the approach of *R v Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, Ex parte Datafin plc* [1987] QB 815.
8. Personal and non-compellable Ministerial discretion is a forensic noxious weed in the Australian *Migration Act 1958* (Cth).
9. Compassion is a starting point for understanding and explaining the challenges of life.
10. Empathy can lead to more durable solutions to address human suffering.
11. In Maastricht power can be found not in the corridors but, rather, on the stairs.