There are of course limits of movement for children in a detention centre. The centre which I was there with my family – My mother and my 9 years old sister – is surrounded by fences all over the place and cameras which control every movement around the fences. These checkpoints are placed for taking care of fences; parents and guardians are the ones who have to take care of safety of their own children there. Children are allowed to go to school from centre. While we were detained in centre, there were vans available with two or three officers in charge for taking children to school, staying with them in the school and bringing them back to the detention again. Children experienced horrible pressure by having access to a natural environment whereas belonging to a subnormal environment. They could deeply touch the difference between themselves and the other normal children in school. They hide the fact of being detained in a detention centre; and feeling conflict, embarrasses and even guilty for hiding the truth. Most of the children in a general outlook couldn’t understand why they’ve been detained as detainees in a detention centre in a normal City since they were issued as Asylum Seeker who needed a Refuge and applied to be recognized officially as a Refugee. Escaped their homeland in fear of persecution and risked their life seeking for an asylum and end up in a limbo and been treated as criminals are the matters which almost none of them could understand. Children who are in detentions centre experienced traumas and rejection from their own society and again they experience same pressures to protect themselves of getting damaged again; such as hiding and lying, but this time in a new environment which has been introduced to them as a place of safety and honesty. A child cannot handle all these conflicts without getting hurt on his unconscious and they will not be able to trust and be honest in this place of refuge. The worst suffer for a child can be confusion about looking for an answer to this question that “Why they are detaining us here?” which will not be answered in a logic way of making sense.

There were activities available for children in centre such as play groups, art and craft and music. But most of the children enjoyed breaking and destroying every facility was provided for them such as toys and instruments and even furniture or almost everything. Destroying and breaking were kind of an anger or stress release; a way to release all the hatred they felt about that place. It was a way of showing their protestation.

Private rooms are provided for everyone in detention centre but without privacy. Every officer who has keys can open the doors for room-checks or placing appointment slips in the rooms. There are several times of room-checking as headcount; usually one time before midnight and one time before sunrise but without any specific timing. An officer knocks the door and opens it; sometimes the officer in charge just opens the door suddenly which scares children a lot. Waiting to be checked is one of the pressures as well. Almost none of the children can understand the reason of headcounts and their creative minds and imagination made different weird reasons for them.

Cleaners were always clean the area but everyone is responsible for keeping their own room clean. But some months ago in the lounge room – where a playing place was provided for children as well - dead bodies of mouse were found inside the furniture and couches.

My family and I detained in a detention centre for 7 months. As I saw my nine-year old sister she was waiting at the first days or weeks or even first month; she had hope. Then she started to feel down and almost nothing; a kind of feeling which I know as depression. She started to cry sometimes for no exact reason, after almost two months she began to have nightmares and crying while sleeping. Then she went to see a counselor; the appointments went to be several times a week. She faced difficulties and conflicts about going to school and as she was feeling a sizeable control upon her behavior by the Immigration and as she was always scared of Immigration to make any decisions for her in regard of her bad manners she struggled a lot inner herself and started to have dark paintings and seeing her counselor several times a week. After about four or five months she didn’t care about anything at all. She released her anger in every possible way. She started to cry and argue – with the others and especially with counselors - and even breaking her own stuff without caring about any consequences’. After 6 months and after some of people and friends left the centre she was out of control; nightmares and knocking downs and fights and misbehaviors – difficulties by communicating even with her own friends - were her attitude in a general outlook.

There were some children who were living in detention for almost 1 year; they were totally down. There was no life in their eyes. No effort. And they were living dead and invisible and they were losing weight as they couldn’t eat properly anymore.

There were some individuals having mental issues and living among the people. There was this person who revealed to be a mental problem person after attacking to a young girl and punching in her face (who was a girl about 16 years old); then this person issued to have two officers with him 24/7 but he made fights several times with officers and clients. There are children who suffered from serious traumas such as domestic violence and facing all the fights and stress and pressure as a new version in a detention centre as detainees. I don’t know whether the experience of detention centre will ever leave them alone as a nightmare or not. Also there were many old clients who were living in detention for over 3 or 4 years which had terrible and horrible effect on children. Just seeing too many people who were doomed to live in a detention were such a living example for them. I do not know even how to describe this nightmare and imagination in their damaged and innocent minds. Will they ever forget the terror of living for ever in a limbo?

The security checks were equal for everyone. No difference between any of the clients. The children behaved same as everyone there; they behaved as someone who needs security checks in regard of protecting and taking care of the normal society and community and normal people who were living outside of detention. This idea of being an unknown criminal was placed in children’s mind at the first place.

Every children were send to school after all the paper works and the educational services were as normal as every other children in the community BUT with big differences between children known as detainees and children known as people. The result of facing all the differences was inner conflicts for the children.

I do not know anything about medical services for expectant mothers and new mothers and babies and infants.

But I knew a child who caught cold and I took him several times to medical clinic with his parents and IHMS did not help at all – which means they did not give him any medical services - until the cold went worst and turned to an infection and the child sent to hospital.

My mother, sister and 21-year old brother came all together but the day after arrival in Christmas Island in the morning the immigration sent my brother to single male adult’s camp. My brother couldn’t even say good bye to his mother and his little sister. This separation affected my 9-year old sister very seriously.

My sister experienced domestic violence and parent divorce before and “She lost her brother in seek of refuge”, thanks to the government of Australia and department of Immigration in respect of Human Rights and even further Children Rights.

Even now the Immigration doesn’t approve a 10-day residing for her brother at the accommodation provided by the government for my family and I in regard of Community Detention visa. My brother sent to Darwin from Christmas Island before us and now he is living in Adelaide while my family and I are living in Melbourne.

The effects of family separation on children – including my sister – are not truly appeared yet.

Unaccompanied minors need a normal life as well; a confidential feel of safety and security and of course a normal type of freedom which all the children should have. Unaccompanied minors need to have feeling normal and equal to every other child around them; because that’s how they are. Unaccompanied minors are equal to every other child in the world.

A pre-transfer assessment conducted prior is one of the most horrible assessments provided by the Department of Immigration. This clause is an official torturing to children. There is no excuse or any reason – in regard of human rights and humanity - for keeping a child who is seeking for an asylum in a long-term period limbo.

By the pre-transfer assessment conducted prior a child will not have any certain life and it will waste a child’s life-time as the child’s mind will experience an uncertainty which can cause him being an uncertain person in the future of society – or next generation – will set as uncertain people.