**Transcript**

***Robyn Sampson – Alternatives to immigration detention***

Well my PhD research is about immigration detention and in particular it’s about alternatives to immigration detention. So what that means is I’ve been looking at how different countries manage asylum seekers and other irregular migrants in the community. So this ranges from things like open reception centres for asylum seekers through to much more intensive supervision programs for other migrants such as people who are about to be deported.

The research is a collaboration with the International Detention Coalition which is a network of over 250 members from 50 different countries. So one outcome is to equip their staff and members with the information they need to advocate with governments around the issue of detention. But of course the best outcome is when people are actually released from detention and we’ve been able to see that happen in some instances. So for example, Japan has released their children from detention and they’re now using the research to develop new alternatives to detention that they can use with other groups.

I think it’s important that society knows governments can manage our borders well without relying heavily on detention and that there are a range of cost-effective and reliable alternatives to detention that treat people with more dignity and humanity while their migration status is being resolved.