



*Lobbying &
Letter-Writing*

LETTERS TO POLITICIANS

- Keep it short and clear
- Focus on one or two main issues
- Make reference to something personal
- Keep it respectful!

- Ask a question or two
- Snail mail has impact
- Email for urgent matters
- Always email individually

Dear [MP's name] ,

The people held by the Australian Government on Manus and Nauru came here because, doubtless, someone told them, "Australia is a safe country and Australians are good people. They will understand and help you." If only we had shown our former Australian values of decency, fairness and tolerance, those who came here seeking safety could be receiving an education, gainfully employed, paying tax, and contributing to our societies in the same rich and colourful tradition that refugees who have made Australia home in the past have done.

The policy of offshore detention for people seeking asylum certainly does not win my support, and neither will you and your party in the approaching election if you continue to support it.

Yours sincerely,
[Name and **address**]

Dear Senator [Name],

I am a 21 year-old university student who is deeply concerned and frustrated with the current treatment of refugees and I am by no means alone. I am writing to ask you to vote against Temporary Protection Visas .

Australia has obligations under the UN Refugee Convention to provide safety, protection, family reunification and work rights for refugees who ask for our help.

I cannot begin to imagine living without my family and with no certainty of ongoing safety. Temporary Protection does not allow traumatised people to move on with their lives in safety and peace. In many cases, they will never be able to see their families again.

I urge you to vote for human decency by opposing Temporary Protection and calling for Permanent Protection.

Yours sincerely,
[Name and address]

Don't expect a response!



Don't forget to write
to say thanks!



Your experiences,
thoughts and further
tips?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Topical and current
- Under 200 words
- Focus on one topic
- Keep it intelligent!



We pick and choose ...

... which laws to obey

Mr Turnbull says it's "vital that all countries abide by international law". Are not the Refugee Convention; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment instruments of international law?

This appears to be a case of "We will decide which international laws must be adhered to, and the circumstances under which they can be ignored."

Linda Cusworth, Bannockburn

ADDY READERS HAVE T

LIVE EXPORTS A WORRY, BUT SO IS HUMAN SUFFERING

I AGREE with Jan Kendall (GA 25/5). Sarah Henderson is to be commended on her stand against live animal exports.

What a pity, though, that she is not as vocal about Australia's live human exports to PNG and Nauru. Yet another man held on Manus Island has taken his own life due to almost five years of indefinite captivity and hopelessness.

I wonder how many deaths it will take in the offshore camps before she is willing to take a stand to stop the cruelty her government inflicts on people.

I wonder if our government has thought about the opportunity costs of its asylum seeker policies. People making such perilous journeys by boat must surely have an abundance of courage and initiative and I feel miffed that these gifts are being offered to Cambodia and Nauru rather than being used to enrich our own communities.

Then there is the lost opportunity to improve our own psyche: unfortunately, brutalising asylum seekers also brutalises all of us.

Sylvia Florin Lilyfield
(letter in The Age 12/08/14)

Short and punchy

Gamble with death

So Scott Morrison believes that “asylum roulette” should now be played with three bullets in the six-shooter, rather than the customary one. I gather it is a game that he is not playing.

Greg Clerk, Williamstown

MEETINGS WITH MPs

Securing the meeting

- Be clear about your reason for meeting
- Use any 'ins' you have
- Be persistent

Planning for the meeting

- Select your team – keep it small
- Select one or two key issues
- Keep the focus on the people affected by policy

In the meeting

- Be polite
- Focus on your key issues
- Stick to your key messages
- Have a specific 'ask'
- Identify a benefit to the MP

Follow up

- Send a thank you email
- Provide a meeting summary
- Provide a list of the action the MP agreed to
- If the actions have timeframes, follow up to check on outcomes



Your experiences?

Role Plays?

- Key issue
- Key messages
- The 'ask'
- Benefit to MP