

## **To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives**

This petition from Grandmothers for Refugees NSW and other concerned citizens draws to the attention of the House the exorbitant cost to the Australian taxpayer of detaining refugees offshore. Despite Australia's claimed commitment to our international agreements, many refugees are still held offshore with no hope and no future after nearly seven years.

Australia's history shows that refugees contribute a great deal to the community and the economy. Rather than continue spending billions of dollars unnecessarily, perhaps you could redirect these funds toward the Australian community and provide more help to rebuild hundreds of fire-damaged residential and business premises, schools and hospitals.

Many citizens are unhappy with the response of the government they elected and would particularly like those whose role is to govern and protect our nation to take positive action. Surely some of these billions spent offshore could provide emergency services such as the Rural Fire Service with the aerial support they need to protect our citizens, homes, wildlife and bush.

We therefore ask the House to actively assist as a matter of urgency the process of the permanent resettlement of refugees still on Nauru and in Port Moresby.

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