

## COVID-19 - Refugees and people seeking asylum need income support

Please email and phone relevant politicians.

**IMPORTANT:** This approach is intended to generate pressure for change through the National COVID cabinet – to overturn the current ‘destitution policy’ favoured by Minister Dutton and PM Scott Morrison.

### 1. Email all relevant Federal Ministers

Include Shadow Ministers by copying all of the email addresses into the Bcc window  
Once you have emailed, you might also call the Ministers’ officers (see numbers below)

#### **SAMPLE EMAIL**

To:

Cc

**Bcc:** [senator.ruston@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ruston@aph.gov.au); [Josh.Frydenberg.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Josh.Frydenberg.MP@aph.gov.au); [Alan.Tudge.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alan.Tudge.MP@aph.gov.au); [Jason.Wood.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Jason.Wood.MP@aph.gov.au); [David.Coleman.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:David.Coleman.MP@aph.gov.au); [Michelle.Landry.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Michelle.Landry.MP@aph.gov.au); [Luke.Howarth.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Howarth.MP@aph.gov.au); [A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au); [Richard.Marles.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Marles.MP@aph.gov.au); [Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au); [senator.keneally@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.keneally@aph.gov.au); [Linda.Burney.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Linda.Burney.MP@aph.gov.au); [Jason.Clare.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Jason.Clare.MP@aph.gov.au);

#### **SUBJECT:**

**COVID-19 crisis - Refugees and people seeking asylum need income support - just like everyone else.**

Dear Minister

Thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are not currently included in the income support arrangements that have been put in place as a COVID-19 crisis response. Given their temporary and insecure visa status, most people on Temporary, SHEV or Bridging Visas are unable to find secure work - in the current COVID-10 crisis most of those who had casual or part-time work are now unemployed.

Like anyone else, refugees and people seeking asylum need basis income support so they can pay their rent and feed their families - without income support individuals and families will become homeless and destitute.

I call on ministers and shadow ministers to urgently work together to ensure that refugees and people seeking asylum are provided with:

- Jobseeker and Jobkeeper payments, and payments for those unfit for work
- Medicare and telehealth services
- Access to family support services
- Access to free child care

Please act decisively to ensure that these most vulnerable people and families have access to basic income and the support services they need.

No-one should be left without support at this time - COVID-19 does not discriminate, and nor should we.

Yours sincerely,

*Name*

*Address*

## 2. **Tweak and send your email to your local federal MP**

[Find your local MP here](#)

## 3. **Email the Premier in your state**

Encourage them to use their influence in the national COVID-19 cabinet. The states have an interest in persuading the federal government to provide income support for refugees and people seeking asylum – state governments should not be expected to fill the gap (though Victoria and Queensland did provide some funds in 2019). Social security and income support is a federal responsibility.

### **SUBJECT:**

**COVID-19 crisis – Refugees and people seeking asylum need income support - just like everyone else.**

Dear Premier **XXXXX**

Thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are not currently included in the income support arrangements that have been put in place by the federal government as a COVID-19 crisis response. Given their temporary and insecure visa status, most people on Temporary, SHEV or Bridging Visas are unable to find secure work - in the current COVID-10 crisis most of those who had casual or part-time work are now unemployed.

Like anyone else, refugees and people seeking asylum need basic income support so they can pay their rent and feed their families – without income support individuals and families will become homeless and destitute.

I call on you to work with your federal parliamentary colleagues to urgently work together to ensure that refugees and people seeking asylum are provided with:

- Jobseeker and Jobkeeper payments, and payments for those unfit for work
- Medicare and telehealth services
- Access to family support services
- Access to free child care

Many individuals and families are already in desperate circumstances, and charity organisations and local community groups cannot provide the level of financial support to keep these people from homelessness. Include here any examples if your community group is assisting refugees financially (*respect privacy and do not use names*)

Please act decisively to ensure that these most vulnerable people and families have access to basic income and the support services they need.

No-one should be left without support at this time – COVID-19 does not discriminate, and nor should we.

Yours sincerely,

*Name*

*Address*

## STATE PREMIERS

---

Premier of New South Wales Hon. Gladys Berejiklian	(02) 8574 5000	<a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/contact-the-premier/">https://www.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/contact-the-premier/</a>
Premier of Victoria Hon. Daniel Andrews	(03) 9651 5000	<a href="mailto:daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au">daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au</a>
Premier of Queensland Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk	(07) 3719 7000	<a href="mailto:thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au">thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au</a>
Premier of South Australia Hon. Stephen Marshall	(08) 8429 3232	<a href="mailto:premier@sa.gov.au">premier@sa.gov.au</a>
Premier of Tasmania Hon. Peter Gutwein	(03) 6165 7650	<a href="mailto:peter.gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au">peter.gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au</a>
Premier of Western Australia Hon. Mark McGowan	(08) 6552-5000	<a href="mailto:wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au">wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>
Chief Minister of the NT Hon. Michael Gunner	(08) 8936 5500	<a href="mailto:chief.minister@nt.gov.au">chief.minister@nt.gov.au</a>
Chief Minister of the ACT Hon. Andrew Barr	13 22 81	<a href="mailto:barr@act.gov.au">barr@act.gov.au</a>

---

## Government Ministers Phone Numbers

---

<a href="#">Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston</a> , Minister for Families and Social Services	(02) 6277 7560
<a href="#">The Hon Josh Frydenberg</a> Federal Treasurer	(02) 6277 7920
<a href="#">The Hon Alan Tudge</a> Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure	(02) 6277 7200
<a href="#">The Hon Jason Wood</a> Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs	(02) 6277 4982
<a href="#">The Hon David Coleman</a> Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs	(02) 6277 4188
<a href="#">The Hon Michelle Landry</a> , Assistant Minister for Children and Families	(02) 6277 4373
<a href="#">The Hon Luke Howarth</a> , Assistant Minister for Community Housing, Homelessness and Community Services	(02) 6277 4018

---

### Opposition Shadow Ministers Phone Numbers

---

<a href="#">Hon Anthony Albanese</a> Leader of the Opposition	(02) 6277 4664
<a href="#">Hon Richard Marles,</a> Deputy Leader of the Opposition	(02) 6277 4330
<a href="#">The Hon Chris Bowen</a> Shadow Treasurer	(02) 6277 4822
<a href="#">Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally</a> Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship	(02) 9891 9139
<a href="#">Hon Linda Burney</a> Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services	(02) 6277 4623
<a href="#">Hon Jason Clare</a> Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness	(02) 6277

---

### Background Information

- Given their temporary and insecure visa status, few people on Temporary, SHEV or Bridging Visas are able to find secure work – in the current COVID-10 crisis it is likely that those who did have casual work or part-time work are now unemployed.
- Refugees and people seeking asylum are not currently included in the income support arrangements that have been put in place as a COVID-19 crisis response.
- Without income support people cannot pay their rent or feed their families and must rely on charity and the goodwill of Australians for rent, food and healthcare to survive.
- Charity organisations and local community groups will be overwhelmed in the coming weeks and months due to COVID-19 economic and health impacts.

The Federal Government has responded to the COVID-10 economic crisis by providing income support for people who have no income - refugees and people seeking asylum must be included.

**This is very important - we must make every effort to ensure that all refugees and people seeking asylum have income support.**