Labor Politician’s Name, Name / organisation
Office Address Postal Address

Date

Dear

**REQUEST FOR REFUGEE PERMANENT PROTECTION ADVOCACY**

[A brief introduction about yourself or group – e.g. I am a concerned individual…. / I live in your Electorate…/ I am a community volunteer… / I am a refugee advocate…. / I write on behalf of …. etc]

**I am/ We are writing to request your strong advocacy for the transition of ‘Legacy Caseload’ refugees from temporary protection visas to permanent protection visas.**

The ‘Legacy Caseload’ refers to approximately 31,000 people who sought safety in Australia almost eight years ago. Of these, 17,643 have been recognised as refugees under the UN Refugee Convention, but only granted temporary protection unlike most refugees in Australia who experience the security of permanent protection. 8341 have been refused, with many now in an Appeals process; approximately 5000 are still waiting to be interviewed or for their results.

(Statistics as at 3/8/20) <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fast-tracking-statistics/>

I/ We and many other Australians are deeply concerned about the wellbeing of all people in the Legacy Caseload. Those granted refugee status are living in Australia on 3-year Temporary Protection Visas (TPV) or 5-year Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV). These visas are not permanent protection visas. They offer no hope of establishing a safe and secure future; they offer no hope of reunion with family; and they place refugees in a continual state of extreme stress, fearing that they may eventually be returned to the country from which they fled persecution. UNHCR has described these conditions as ‘punitive’ and noted their damaging effect on refugees’ mental health.

**Granting refugees the right to a permanent future in Australia speaks to the core of Labor’s social justice values and principles and is in the national interest of building a strong, socially cohesive community.**

 **I/We request your urgent advocacy on their behalf.**

 [If there are people in your local area in this situation, then include a paragraph about their plight]

Labor’s National Platform 2018 states on pages 189 -190:

*297. Those found to be owed Australia’s protection under the Refugee Convention, Complimentary Protection or any other international instruments will be given permanent protection under the Migration Act 1958.”*

*305. Temporary Protection Visas place refugees in an ongoing state of uncertainty and prevent meaningful settlement, creating hardship for refugees and denying Australia the benefit of their contribution.*

*306. Labor will abolish Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas and transition eligible refugees onto permanent visa arrangements.*

**I/We request your advocacy in:**

* **ensuring that permanent protection for refugees, remains a strong core principle in Labor’s National Platform.**
* **persuading the Coalition Government to transition refugees on Temporary Protection Visas or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas to Permanent Protection Visas, in order to end their ongoing trauma and give them a stable future.**

Labor’s National Platform 2018 states on pages 190 -191:

*307. Labor believes protection claims made in Australia should be assessed and reviewed on the individual merits with procedural fairness ensuring our international human rights obligations are met.*

*Accordingly:*

*The assessment and review of protection claims will be underpinned by robust, efficient, and transparent processes that ensure fair and consistent outcomes, including access to review and independent advice. ….. The assessment and review of protection claims must be independent and free from any political or diplomatic interference. …. ….. Labor will reinstate the Refugee Review Tribunal and abolish the Immigration Assessment Authority.*

*312. The existing fast track assessment process under the auspices of the Immigration Assessment Authority and the limitation of appeal rights does not provide a fair, thorough, and robust assessment process for persons seeking asylum.*

*313. Labor will abolish this fast track assessment process.*

**I/We also request your advocacy in seeking an amnesty for those in the ‘Legacy Caseload’ who are in an Appeals process or still waiting for interviews or their case results.**

These people have suffered through eight years of trauma under a flawed, biased, and unfair system. At the very least, people who have been refused must be given a chance to fully present their protection claims again under just and fair processes as outlined in Section 307 of Labor’s National Platform 2018.

[If there are people in your local area in this situation, then include a paragraph about their plight]

The 31,000 people in the ‘Legacy Caseload’ are trapped in Australia in a cruel temporary situation that offers them no chance for a safe and secure future. These people have been a part of our communities for almost 8 years, living, working, paying taxes, and contributing to society, while all the time struggling to survive the great hardships imposed upon them.

**I/ We request your support in ensuring that these issues will be in the minds and hearts of all Labor politicians, Labor National Policy Forum members and delegates to the Labor National Conference,** with permanent protection status for established refugees in the ‘Legacy Caseload’ remaining a core principle of Labor’s National Platform.

**We request that an amnesty be considered for those in the ‘Legacy Caseload’ still awaiting Appeals or outcomes.** All these people live with the very real fear of being returned to the dangers faced in their country of origin.

Yours sincerely,

[Name and signature]

Residential address
Email address: