

RESOURCE KIT for action

**ARAN encourages all member groups and refugee supporters to
TAKE ACTION on or around 19 July.**

Call on the Australian Government to:

- End the offshore arrangements with PNG and Nauru.
- Bring the remaining refugees to safety.
- Provide safe resettlement options for all those still in limbo, including those already transferred here in Australia
- Accept the New Zealand Resettlement Offer

Resource Kit for local actions

- Background information
- Key messages
- Suggested actions – in person and online
- Resources
 - Postcards – for mailing and email
 - Sample posters
 - Other resources
 - Proforma letter
 - Proforma media release

BACKGROUND - Why is ARAN calling for action on or around 19 July?

“... prolonged and indefinite detention, combined with bleak future prospects, has broken many of the men, women and children in offshore detention.”

See more information on the Amnesty website <https://www.amnesty.org.au/campaigns/offshore-detention-refugees/>

On July 19 this year it will be 8 long years since PM Kevin Rudd announced that “...as of today, asylum seekers who come here by boat without a visa will never be settled in Australia”. Since then, over 3,100 people seeking asylum in Australia have been ‘offshore’ to PNG and Nauru. There have been 14 deaths and immeasurable suffering.

What has happened to these people?

- 1223 have been transferred to Australia for medical treatment, but are in limbo with no path to safe resettlement (including 192 Medevac refugees)
- 125 are still in PNG and 108 are still on Nauru – not detained, but in limbo
- 942 have left for resettlement in United States (with a further 240 having provisional approval)
- RCOA estimates that about 1200 of the 3,100 people subjected to offshore processing since 2013 are in limbo with no pathway to safe resettlement.

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For further detail on statistics see

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/operation-sovereign-borders-offshore-detention-statistics/> (June 2021)

See also policy brief on Offshore Processing by Jesuit Social Services - June 2021

<https://aran.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Offshore-Processing-Policy-Briefing-June-2021.pdf>

Hunger strike: As at 28 June, 14 men are on hunger strike in MITA (Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation). These men were transferred from PNG for medical treatment nearly 2 years ago, and have been held in hotels in Melbourne and Brisbane since then. They remain in detention while most of the others transferred under Medevac have either been released, or resettled in the US. These men are desperate for freedom, but losing hope after 8 long years of suffering.

KEY MESSAGES:

July 19 Statement:

Don't Look Away - 8 years of trauma and shame MUST END
Safe resettlement now for Australia's refugees

Hashtags:

#8YearsTooLong
#SafeResettlementNow
#GameOver
#FreeTheRefugees

Suggested messages

- 8 Years Too Long: Years of trauma, years of shame
- End the Harm: Safe Resettlement Now
- 8 years of cruelty cost \$billions\$\$ - it's time for safe resettlement
- Let them call Australia home
- 8 years of harm offshore: 14 young lives lost: Safe Resettlement Now
- 8 wasted years: We took away their youth. Now give them back their futures
- Don't Look Away: Look into your heart for compassion
- Compassion does not leave people in limbo: Safe Resettlement Now
- Don't Look Away: He is someone's son and brother. She is someone's daughter and sister
- Accept the New Zealand offer to resettle refugees

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ACTIONS TO TAKE

Rallies will be held in a number of capital cities on Sunday 18 May – see ARAN website for details <https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>

Local actions

Make sure you invite local media to your actions and provide a photo opportunity.

- See draft media release below
- Post photos of your actions on social media.
- Send details to info-pics@aran.net.au
- **Actions at MPs and Senators electorate offices on Monday 19 July.**
 - Present the July 19 Statement and other messages on a giant envelope (see example below)
 - Invite people to sign the Game Over petition:
<https://www.amnesty.org.au/gameover/>
 - Invite people to sign a postcard - see links for printable postcards below
 - Consider an 8 hour 'stake out' at your MPs office - an hour for each year.
- Banner and poster display in public places
- Church bells ringing for 8 minutes - a minute for every year.
Make sure there is signage and social media to let people know why the bells are ringing!
- Support the Indefinite Refugee Sleepout by sleeping out and having picture added to your FB page. See details here:
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=the%20indefinite%20refugee%20sleepout>
- Music – lyrics for song by Anthea Falkenberg: *8 Years of Trauma; 20 Years of Shame* here: See lyric and contact details for Anthea below
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v46VJ3RZloe5d_hlVC0VPp0H97hetTpdW-9p3laZrkc/edit?usp=drivesdk

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ONLINE ACTIONS

Social media: Use the hashtags:

#8YearsTooLong #SafeResettlementNow #GameOver #FreeTheRefugees

- Tweet key messages
- Record a short clip reading the July 19 Statement
- Post a selfie with a sign using one of the key messages
- Share the Game Over petition on your social media
<https://www.amnesty.org.au/gameover/>

Contact politicians

- Send the July 19 Statement to the Senators in your state. See email addresses below
- Call and email your MP, the Prime Minister, and Leader of the Opposition.
Find details here:
https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members
- Organise a Letter-Blitz – see kit here:
<https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/rar-groups/online-group/>

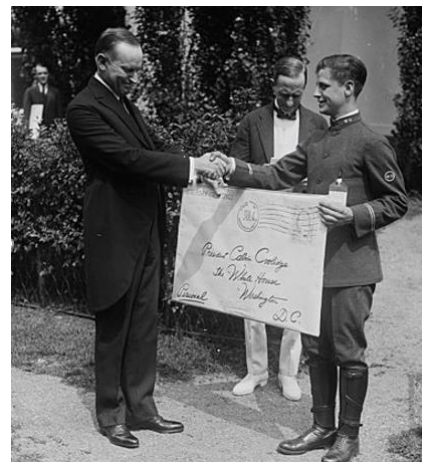
RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR ACTION

- Giant envelope to deliver your messages to your local MP
- Posters
- Postcards – for mailing and email
- Proforma letter - see below
- Proforma media release – see below
- Images
- Other resources
 - <https://www.amnesty.org.au/activist-resources-game-over/>
 - <https://www.timeforahome.com.au/>
 - Media stories
 - Words of song by Anthea Falkenberg: *8 Years of Trauma; 20 Years of Shame* and Poem by Ken Rook
 - Email addresses for senators (by state)

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Giant Envelope with July 19 messages

Create a giant envelope - address it to your local MP - write July 19 messages on the back



Your group can hand-deliver your “letter” to your local MP for a photo opportunity with local media and to interview people who have written a message. Share on social media.

Large Cardboard sheets for “envelope” are readily available - the example above cost \$2.50

- You can use the Adelaide Vigil image as your “postage stamp” (see image below)
- Print and paste onto cardboard
- Print or write your MP’s address on A4 and paste onto cardboard
- Invite people to write a message to your MP on the envelope

Plan your action for 19th July 2021 – 8 YEARS TOO LONG

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Posters – use these as they are or tweak.

You can download these posters from the ARAN website <https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>



Proforma - **Promote your action** – white



Proforma - **Promote your action** – blue



Poster 1 - 8 Years of Trauma – yellow



Poster 1 - 8 Years of Trauma - no colour

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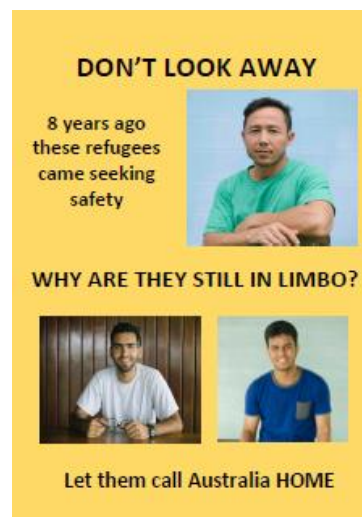
Poster 2 – Don't Look Away – no colour



Poster 2 – Don't Look Away – yellow



Poster 3 – Wire heart

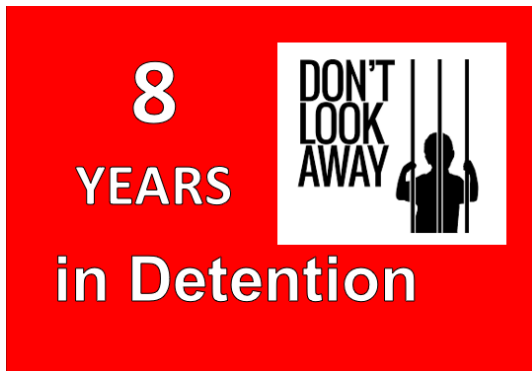


Poster 4 Why are they still in Limbo V1



Poster 4 Why are they still in Limbo V2

Postcards



FROM:
Name:
Address: Postcode:.....

8 years of cruelty has cost around \$8billion, 14 young men have died, and thousands bear the scars of trauma.
It's time to stop offshoring our responsibilities for refugees.
Over 3,100 people who sought asylum in Australia have been sent offshore since 19 July 2013.

- around 230 remain in PNG and Nauru
- more than 1100 have been brought to Australia for medical treatment

The Australian Government needs to provide safe resettlement for these refugees either here in Australia, or in New Zealand.

Sincerely,

PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

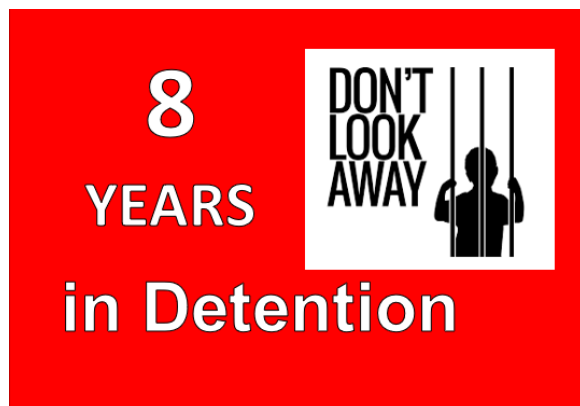
2600

Click here to download:

<https://aran.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Dont-Look-Away-Postcards-A4-MPs.pdf>

or go to <https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>

Dear Minister



Yours sincerely
(Your name)
(Your address)

8 years of cruelty has cost around \$8billion, 14 young men have died, and thousands bear the scars of trauma.

It's time to stop offshoring our responsibilities for refugees.

Over 3,100 people who sought asylum in Australia have been sent offshore since 19 July 2013.

- around 230 remain in PNG and Nauru
- more than 1100 have been brought to Australia for medical treatment

The Australian Government needs to provide safe resettlement for these refugees either here in Australia, or in New Zealand.

You can download this editable postcard for email from the ARAN website

<https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>

SAFE RESETTLEMENT FOR REFUGEES

Compassion does not leave people in limbo



FROM:

Name:

Address:

Dear

Refugees come to us seeking safety – but we leave them in limbo with only anxiety about their future.

The Australian Government must provide safe resettlement and permanency for refugees - either here in Australia, or in New Zealand.

Sincerely,

PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

2600

Click here to download: <https://aran.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/21.07.19-In-Limbo-Postcards-A4-MPs.pdf> or go to <https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>

SAFE RESETTLEMENT FOR REFUGEES

Compassion does not leave people in limbo



Dear

Refugees come to us seeking safety – but we leave them in limbo with only anxiety about their future.

The Australian Government must provide safe resettlement and permanency for refugees - either here in Australia, or in New Zealand.

Sincerely
(your name)
(your address)

You can download this editable postcard for email from the ARAN website <https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>

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FROM:

Name:

Address:

Dear

Please grant freedom to people on Nauru, in PNG, and in detention around Australia.

Since 2013 the New Zealand Government has offered to resettle 150 refugees a year.

Please accept the NZ Offer.

Sincerely,

PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

2600

Click here to download:

<https://aran.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/21.06.01-toNZ-postcards-for-MPs-A4.pdf> or go to <https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>

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Proforma letter

Dear Minister (or Local MP or Senator)

I write concerning people who sought asylum in Australia who have been held in limbo in PNG and Nauru for 8 years. They are trapped there indefinitely unless the Australian government honours obligations towards refugees and people who exercise their right to seek asylum. It is our responsibility to ensure they have a viable and safe resettlement option.

There are still approximately 130 people in PNG, and approximately 100 on Nauru, and these 'left behind' people are suffering terribly. They have been left without hope for many years and are now experiencing major trauma both physically and mentally- those in PNG are at high risk of contracting COVID.

People seeking asylum who are in PNG have been attacked. In April this year, as you know, armed gang members overwhelmed security guards at an accommodation complex in Port Moresby where 15 asylum seekers were housed by the Australian Government. Four people were believed to have been seriously hurt during the attack. The Human Rights Law Centre said after years of detention and medical neglect, the threat of violent attacks remains a constant fear for refugees held in both Nauru and PNG.

According to Amnesty International, they are not allowed to work legally. They cannot access education or the necessary health care. Nor can they plan for their futures. Many live with trauma and illness due to their long-term detention.

As the US deal will soon be completed, many people will be left without a durable and safe resettlement option.

I call on you as the responsible Minister to:

- Allow these people the right to settle in Australia, or allow them to go to New Zealand
- Immediately close down the offshore processing operation and bring all asylum-seekers and refugees on Nauru and in PNG to Australia, and ensure those seeking asylum have their claims assessed in a timely, fair and effective manner,

In addition, those who have been brought to Australia for medical treatment, and who are still either in detention, or on short term Bridging Visas also need a safe future. As they are already here with us, it makes sense to grant them permanent visas and allow them to call Australia home.

Yours sincerely

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Sample Media Release: #8 Years Too Long

End the Trauma and Shame – Release and Resettle Refugees

On July 19 this year it will be 8 long years since PM Kevin Rudd announced, “As of today, asylum seekers who come here by boat without a visa will never be settled in Australia”.

All over the country Australians will be calling on the Government to terminate the offshore arrangements with Nauru and PNG, and **END 8 years of trauma and shame – refugees need safe resettlement now.**

TheGroup will be meeting/ rallying at (time).....(date) at (place).

Since 2013, thousands of men, women and children been subjected to offshore detention on either Nauru or Papua New Guinea. In late 2018 the Kids Off Nauru campaign resulted in all children and their families being brought to Australia. Many of these children were severely traumatized with Resignation Syndrome, and some still experience emotional difficulties. None of these people have been resettled here – most have been held in community detention on bridging visas, without the right to work. Eight years after seeking safety in Australia they still have no certainty about their future.

Including the families evacuated from Nauru, over 1,161 refugees have been medically evacuated to Australia, and around 100 of these people still remain in detention. Those released are not eligible for Centrelink payments - after 8 years in limbo, with no work experience in Australia and suddenly expected to work, many are not able to find and hold steady jobs.

Spokesperson for(the group) stated “ We cannot continue to look away. These people are somebody’s sons and daughters, dreaming of education, employment and the chance to live in safety. We have taken away their youth and wasted precious years; we need to end the harm now.”

The costly offshore arrangements with PNG and Nauru must be terminated, and the refugees remaining there should be brought to Australia or resettled in New Zealand – the New Zealand Government is willing and ready to offer to resettle these people.

It’s time for Australia to stop the cruel treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum, and reset our policies to fairness and compassion.

For media comment contact:

Plan your action for 19th July 2021 – 8 YEARS TOO LONG

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Images:

These images can be downloaded from <https://aran.net.au/actions/8-years-too-long/>



Heart Image courtesy Adelaide Vigil Group



12 preventable deaths

These men, all twelve of them, should be alive and part of our community.

Instead they died on Manus and Nauru, as a direct result of Australia's offshore detention policy.

NO MORE DEATHS

EVACUATE THE REFUGEES FROM MANUS & NAURU

 Reza Bheki, 24 died on February 17 2014 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Fayssal Ahmad, 27 died on December 20 2014 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Hamid Khazari, 24 died on September 2 2014 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Rajeev Rajendran, 32 died on October 2 2017 in Manus Island Detention Camp
 Hamid Shamsiripour, 31 died on August 2 2017 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Karim Nourani, 34 died on August 2 2015 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Omid Massoumi, 23 died on April 20 2016 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Fariborz Karami, 26 died on June 15 2018 on Nauru
 Rashid Khan, 28 died on May 13 2016 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Syed Saadul Ali Shah, 33 died on May 22 2014 in Manus Island Detention Camp	 Rohingyan refugee, 52 died on May 22 2018 in Manus Island	 Jahingir, refugee, 29 died on 2 November 2017 on Nauru

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MEDIA STORIES

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/operation-sovereign-borders-offshore-detention-statistics/>
(May 2021)

<https://www.amnesty.org.au/campaigns/offshore-detention-refugees/>

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/manus-island-report/> (2018)

<https://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/refugees/explosive-footage/explosive-footage-from-inside-manus?t=ARjNeuZy0> (2017)

Men of Manus – The Age 2016

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/men-of-manus-living-in-limbo-20160910-grdbuv.html>



Mohammad Sharif Rahmati from Afghanistan



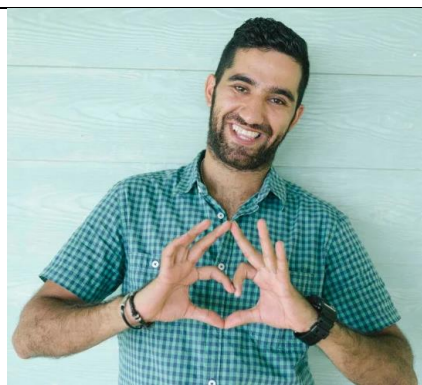
Imran Mohammad, Rohingya.



Amir from Iran



Mamud el Hasson from Myanmar.



Mir Betnam Moghimi Kivaj, from Iran converted to Christianity and had to leave his country

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Songs and Chants

Song by Anthea Falkenberg - adelaidevigil@gmail.com

8 Years of Trauma; 20 Years of Shame

See lyrics here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v46VJ3RZloe5d_hlVC0VPp0H97hetTpdW-9p3laZrkC/edit?usp=drivesdk

1.

They came across the waters,
They came from far and wide;
They trusted Australia
Simply to be kind.

CHORUS:

8 years of trauma,
20 years of shame.
Uncage Australia's heart.
People all need the same:
Freedom! Safety! Future!

2.

Each person seeking safety
Is just like you and me
But born in a place and time
That threatened their safety.

CHORUS

3.

Imprisoned on offshore islands,
Rejected from our land,
These women, men and children
Suffered pain no-one could stand.

CHORUS

4.

Some have been settled safely
But a thousand still need hope.
Please take the time to feel
How you would in the same boat.

CHORUS

8 years of trauma,
20 years of shame.
Uncage Australia's heart.
People all need the same:
Freedom! Safety! Future!

Ken Rookes 2021 kro23808@bigpond.net.au

Eight Years too many - *This works as a call and response, with someone providing a rhythmic lead, and the group responding*

Eight years, **much too many!**

Left to languish with uncertainty and fear.

Eight long years, **much too many!**

No joy, no laughter, only bitterness and tears.

Eight years, much too many!

away from sight, PNG and Nauru,

Eight long years, much too many!

Islands of darkness in the ocean blue.

Eight years, much too many!

Evil people determining their fate.

Eight long years, much too many!

How much longer will they have to wait?

Eight years, much too many!

Four hundred weeks; cruelty, despair.

Eight long years, much too many!

Trauma-damaged people looking for repair.

Eight years, much too many!

Even one year would be way too long.

Eight long years, much too many!

No place to call home, nowhere to belong.

Eight years, much too many!

cruel indifference rules the day

Eight long years, much too many!

Let's make them welcome, bring them here to stay!

Eight years, much too many!

Where is the justice, hope and empathy?

Eight long years, much too many!

Why must they suffer so, endlessly?

Eight years, much too many!

Refugees are people just like you and me.

Eight long years, much too many!

So much to contribute, come on, set them free!

Eight years, **much too many!**

Eight long years, much too many!

Eight years!

Addresses for your letters and emails:

1. The Prime Minister

Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

You cannot email the PM. Use the following link to the PM's Contact Form.

<https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

2. Alex Hawke Minister for Immigration

The Hon Alex Hawke,
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services & Multicultural Affairs
PO Box 1173
Castle Hill NSW 1765

Use the following link to the Contact Form for Alex Hawke:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=HWO

3. The Hon Karen Andrews Minister for Home Affairs

The Hon Karen Andrews
Minister for Home Affairs
PO Box 409, Varsity Lakes QLD 4227

Email: Karen.Andrews.MP@aph.gov.au

Canberra Postal Address for all Senators

PO Box 6100
Senate, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Canberra Postal Address for all MPs

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Find postal and email addresses for your local MP's electorate office

https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/members

Email addresses for all Senators: follow the link, or copy and paste into the "To" section of your email

Email addresses for all **ACT** senators

senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **NSW** senators

senator.ayres@aph.gov.au; senator.bragg@aph.gov.au; senator.davey@aph.gov.au;
senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au; senator.fierravanti-wells@aph.gov.au; senator.hughes@aph.gov.au;
senator.keneally@aph.gov.au; senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au; senator.molan@aph.gov.au;
senator.oneill@aph.gov.au; senator.payne@aph.gov.au; senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au;

Email addresses for all **NT** senators

Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au; senator.mcmahon@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **Queensland** senators

senator.canavan@aph.gov.au; senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au; senator.green@aph.gov.au;
senator.hanson@aph.gov.au; senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au; senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au;
senator.rennick@aph.gov.au; senator.roberts@aph.gov.au; senator.scarr@aph.gov.au;
senator.stoker@aph.gov.au; senator.waters@aph.gov.au; senator.watt@aph.gov.au;

Email addresses for all **SA** senators

senator.antic@aph.gov.au; senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au; senator.farrell@aph.gov.au; senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au;
senator.gallacher@aph.gov.au; senator.griff@aph.gov.au;
senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au; Senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au; senator.patrick@aph.gov.au;
senator.ruston@aph.gov.au; senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au; senator.wong@aph.gov.au;

Email addresses for all **Tasmania** senators

senator.abetz@aph.gov.au; senator.askew@aph.gov.au; senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au;
senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au; senator.chandler@aph.gov.au; senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au;
senator.duniam@aph.gov.au; senator.lambie@aph.gov.au; senator.mckim@aph.gov.au;
senator.polley@aph.gov.au; senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au; senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **Victorian** senators

senator.carr@aph.gov.au; senator.ciccone@aph.gov.au; senator.henderson@aph.gov.au;
senator.hume@aph.gov.au; senator.kitching@aph.gov.au; senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au;
senator.paterson@aph.gov.au; senator.rice@aph.gov.au; senator.ryan@aph.gov.au;
senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au; senator.walsh@aph.gov.au; senator.van@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **WA** senators

senator.brockman@aph.gov.au; senator.cash@aph.gov.au; senator.dodson@aph.gov.au;
senator.lines@aph.gov.au; senator.matt.o.sullivan@aph.gov.au; senator.pratt@aph.gov.au;
senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au; senator.siewert@aph.gov.au; senator.small@aph.gov.au;
senator.smith@aph.gov.au; senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au; senator.sterle@aph.gov.au