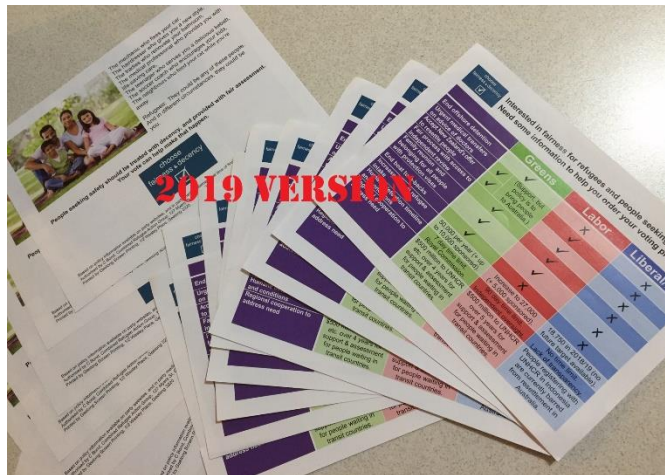


We are writing to invite you to join in an exciting campaign, in your own local area, in the lead up to/during the next Federal Election.

For the 2019 Federal Election, Combined Refugee Action Group (CRAG) partnered with other refugee advocacy groups in the Corangamite Electorate (Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast region in Victoria) to deliver the *Choose Fairness & Decency* Campaign.

Our focus was on drawing attention to fair and decent policy in regard to refugees and people seeking asylum. We wanted people to consider the policy differences as they went to the polls, to assist them in ordering the candidates on their ballot sheets. We therefore developed a policy comparison flyer, consistent with Australian Electoral Commission regulations. It was presented as a 'report card' for each of Greens, Labor and LNP, with ticks and crosses next to the various elements of refugee policy. It also included positive, value-based messaging about refugees.



While Labor very disappointingly continues to support offshore detention and boat turn-backs, Labor policy does include the following improvements on current government policy:

- Permanent visas for refugees, regardless of mode of arrival
- Access to family reunion for those awarded protection visas
- Abolition of the flawed 'Fast Track' assessment process, and reinstatement of the Refugee Review Tribunal for decision appeals
- Legal support, English classes and access to income support for people living in the community and waiting for protection visa assessments
- 90 day limit on detention (except in the case of an unacceptable risk to the community, and then with regular review)
- Assistance to the UNHCR for supporting and assessing people waiting in transit countries
- Increased annual refugee intake and additional sponsorship places

In a marginal seat like Corangamite, we felt that a policy comparison might be the catalyst for a change of MP and a potential change of government. As we have seen over the past few years, without a change of government, and a change of the balance of power in the Senate, there is no positive change to refugee policy.

The *Choose Fairness & Decency* campaign included the following elements:

- Training and organising local volunteers to hand out policy comparison flyers
- Making the policy comparisons available to local advocacy groups for market stalls, events, meet-the-candidates forums and letterbox drops in the lead up to the election
- Attending meet-the-candidates forums to ask questions on refugee policy
- Supporting a local RAR group to hold a meet-the-candidates forum specifically on refugee policy
- Displaying "Choose Fairness & Decency for Refugees" banners on churches and private properties in prominent places across the electorate
- Handing out policy comparison flyers at pre-polling and election day polling centres

Corangamite did see a change of MP at the last election. In fact, Corangamite was one of only four electorates across the nation to change out of the hands of the LNP (the others were Dunkley, Gilmore and Warringah).

Therefore, we have decided to run this campaign again at the next election, and are hoping that you will join us in your local electorate! Here's what we can offer:

### Policy Comparison Flyers

We are in the process of updating the policy comparison flyer to ensure that it is accurate. We will add a line encouraging voters to also consider the refugee policies of independents and minor parties in their electorates. In order to comply with AEC guidelines, the document will need to be endorsed by CRAG, with CRAG's address and the address of the printer in small letters on the bottom. As shown in the photos, it will not have any CRAG branding. Advocacy groups in other areas are welcome to use it if they can pay for their own printing.

In 2019, the comparison flyers worked out to be 6c each due to ordering them in bulk. We were able to deliver boxes to a collection point in Melbourne for other Victorian groups. Groups in other states either paid for postage, or we sent the file directly to their chosen printer (changing the printing address on the file first to comply with regulations).

### Volunteer Training Resources

CRAG has developed materials for a training session for polling centre volunteers, including:

- Some sample 'pitches' to use when offering people policy comparisons
- Tips on interacting with politicians and their supporters/staffers at polling centres
- Tips on dealing with any antagonistic community members
- Rules for polling centres

These resources can be emailed to you (free of charge, of course!)

### Campaign T-shirts, Corflute Boards and Banners.

Last election our volunteers wore campaign t-shirts at polling centres. We were able to purchase them for about \$12 each with a minimum order of 100. They do not have any CRAG branding, and we are happy for other groups to purchase some for use in their own electorates (but you may wish to wear your own group t-shirts instead). We can also discuss accessing corflute signs and banners if you are interested in using those.



We really hope that you will consider joining *Choose Fairness & Decency*. Refugee policy needs to change; lives depend on it.

Please email [combinedrefugeeactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:combinedrefugeeactiongroup@gmail.com) for more information or to express your interest.

Choose Fairness & Decency Working Group  
Combined Refugee Action Group, Geelong Victoria