

**Issue for July 2022:
Call for access to Safety Net Income and Support for
Refugees and People Seeking Asylum**

Supported by ARAN, RAR, G4R, & NARN

Available to download at - <https://ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/write-a-letter>



Included in this kit is the information you need to create your own letters or use the proformas

- Guide and Background notes prepared by ARAN’s Letter Writing Network.
- A proforma letter that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email.
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators

Personalised letters are best –

- You might like to use the **AIDA** principle
 - **A - Attention** - grab the recipient's attention. Say something positive about the reader that is directed towards the focus of your letter. Stimulate the recipient's curiosity
 - **I - Interest & Information** - encourage the recipient to read on.
 - **D - Desire** - Getting the reader to want to do what you are seeking - in their interest to do so.
 - **A - Action** - inform the reader of the action you want them to take.

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Regards,  
The ARAN Letter Writing Network  
[austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR ...

### Call for access to Safety Net Income and Support

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#### People on Bridging Visas or without Visas

People who are seeking asylum in Australia are usually given Bridging Visas while they wait for a decision about their claim for protection - they usually have the right to work, but if they are unable to find employment, they are **NOT** eligible to receive any financial or other support from the government except Medicare.

NB. Due to years of uncertainty, some people are unable to work due to their poor state of health.

Thousands who arrived by boat have been waiting for years to have their claim for refugee status assessed.

Some are in an appeals process and may have no visa. The Home Affairs webpage shows that at Dec 2021 there were 8,842 people who arrived by boat who hold BVEs and that 22% of those eligible for BVE (2,437) were awaiting renewal of BVE - these people have **NO access to Medicare**.

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/illegal-maritime-arrivals-bve-31-dec-2021.pdf>

People on Bridging Visas do **not** have access to **Centrelink** payments while they are awaiting a decision about their claim for protection. Instead, they **may** be eligible for the Commonwealth Government **Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS)** which can provide income support payments, access to case work support and counselling, and access to subsidised medicine. However, the previous federal government introduced a series of policy changes **restricting eligibility for SRSS** to such an extent that most people awaiting protection decisions (which may take several years) are now **excluded** from receiving income and other support through SRSS.

Refugee Council of Australia statistics (June 2022) - only 995 people who arrived by boat are receiving SRSS support (mostly at the lower end of support) compared with 3,907 in 2019. The lower end of SRSS support does **NOT** generally provide income support. See details here: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/srss/>

Too many people on BVEs (and those who have no visa at all) are in **DESTITUTION**, with **no means of support** for themselves and their families. They are completely reliant on over-stretched community service organisations or unfunded voluntary community groups.

#### People on Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs), or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs)

- Thousands of people who arrived by boat (before 19 July 2013) and who have been recognised as refugees have been given TPVs and SHEVs - these people should be granted permanent protection - they are being punished for arriving by boat.
- Refugees holding TPVs and SHEVs do not have the same access to residency rights and citizenship pathways as refugees who hold a Permanent Protection Visa.
- TPV and SHEV holders are permitted to work (subject to some restrictions) and have access to Medicare. They are eligible for some income assistance, but the level and terms of this assistance are within the discretion of the Minister for Immigration.
- The newly elected Labor Government has committed to providing Permanent Protection Visas to people currently on TPVs and SHEVs.

Sources: [Asylum Insight](#), [Refugee Council of Australia](#), [Jesuit Refugee Services](#) and [St Vincent de Paul Society](#)

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#### Key requests

- The Australian Government accepts its responsibility for refugees and people seeking asylum by ensuring that no one is left without adequate regular income to pay for food, housing, and other essentials of living for themselves and their families.
  - Ensure that all refugees and people seeking asylum have the right to work, to study, and have access to income support, medical care and subsidised medicine.
  - Ensure that income support payment is commensurate with the relevant Centrelink payment.
  - SRSS support is restored to all people awaiting determination of their refugee status, including those in an appeals process.
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## Addresses for your letters:

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**1. The Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [andrew.giles.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:andrew.giles.mp@aph.gov.au)

Contact Form:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Contact\\_Senator\\_or\\_Member?MPID=243609](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=243609)

**2. The Hon Clare O'Neil, Minister for Home Affairs**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au)

Contact Form:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Contact\\_Senator\\_or\\_Member?MPID=140590](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=140590)

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**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

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**You may also like to send an email to your local MP**

Find electorate postal and email addresses for your local MP:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Guidelines\\_for\\_Contacting\\_Senators\\_and\\_Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members)

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**Please Note:**

Some MPs and Senators prefer the use of Contact Forms - see the APH website using the link above.

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**Email addresses for Senators are on the next page**

Where Senators' email addresses are not available on the APH (Australian Parliamentary House) website, we have suggested the standard convention for Senators' email addresses.

## If you are sending an email, be sure to include your NAME and ADDRESS

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Email addresses for all **ACT** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

[senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au); [senator.david.pocock@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.david.pocock@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all **NSW** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

[senator.ayres@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ayres@aph.gov.au); [senator.bragg@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.bragg@aph.gov.au); [senator.davey@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.davey@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au); [senator.hughes@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hughes@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.molan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.molan@aph.gov.au); [senator.oneill@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.oneill@aph.gov.au); [senator.payne@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.payne@aph.gov.au); [senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **NT** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

[Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au); [senator.nampijinprice@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.nampijinprice@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all **Queensland** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

[senator.canavan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.canavan@aph.gov.au); [senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au); [senator.green@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.green@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.hanson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hanson@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.rennick@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.rennick@aph.gov.au); [senator.roberts@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.roberts@aph.gov.au); [senator.scarr@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.scarr@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.stoker@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.stoker@aph.gov.au); [senator.waters@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.waters@aph.gov.au); [senator.watt@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.watt@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **SA** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

[senator.antic@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.antic@aph.gov.au); [senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au); [senator.farrell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.farrell@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au); [senator.grogan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.grogan@aph.gov.au); [senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.liddle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.liddle@aph.gov.au); [Senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au); [senator.pocock@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.pocock@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.ruston@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ruston@aph.gov.au); [senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au); [senator.wong@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.wong@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **Tasmania** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

[senator.askew@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.askew@aph.gov.au); [senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au); [senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.chandler@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chandler@aph.gov.au); [senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au); [senator.duniam@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.duniam@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.lambie@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lambie@aph.gov.au); [senator.mckim@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckim@aph.gov.au); [senator.polley@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.polley@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.tyrrell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.tyrrell@aph.gov.au); [senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au); [senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **Victorian** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

[senator.babet@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.babet@aph.gov.au); [senator.ciccione@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ciccione@aph.gov.au); [senator.henderson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.henderson@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.hume@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hume@aph.gov.au); [senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au); [senator.paterson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.paterson@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.rice@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.rice@aph.gov.au); [senator.stewart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.stewart@aph.gov.au); [senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.van@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.van@aph.gov.au); [senator.walsh@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.walsh@aph.gov.au); [senator.white@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.white@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all **WA** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:

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[senator.dodson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.dodson@aph.gov.au); [senator.lines@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lines@aph.gov.au); [senator.matt.o'sullivan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.matt.o'sullivan@aph.gov.au);  
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**PROFORMA LETTER:**

**Access to income support and social safety net for refugees and people seeking asylum**

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*[Date]*

Dear Minister Giles/O'Neill

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Immigration/Minister for Home Affairs.

I welcome your government's promise to govern in a way that looks after the disadvantaged and vulnerable, and leaves no one behind, and in particular Labor's commitment to restore a positive and compassionate approach to the treatment of refugees.

Over the last 10 years conditions for people seeking refugee protection in Australia have become increasingly harsh and cruel. The previous federal government introduced a series of policy changes restricting eligibility for Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) to such an extent that most people awaiting protection decisions are now excluded from receiving income or other support through SRSS.

This has meant that the approximately 30,000 people have been left with no safety net while they wait for decisions on their application for protection. Many are now homeless and in destitution, with no means to support themselves and their families. They are completely reliant on over-stretched community service organisations or unfunded voluntary community groups.

As this is a matter of urgency, please immediately instigate action to:

- Restore SRSS support to all people awaiting determination of their refugee status, and
- Ensure that all refugees and people seeking asylum have the right to work, to study, and have access to income support and medical care.

*[your name and address]*