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Issue for July 2023

***Refugees in Limbo – 10 Years Too Bloody Long***

Available to download at –

- <https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>
- <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.
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators
- A proforma letter that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email.

**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)

## Refugees in Limbo - 10 Years Too *Bloody* Long

### Why it is important to write letters re the 10 years of trauma since 19 July 2013

Ten years on, thousands of people are still in limbo, having endured years of trauma in offshore detention in Papua New Guinea and Nauru, and ongoing uncertainty as they are denied permanent resettlement in Australia.

### Why is 19 July 2013 an important date in Australian refugee policy?

Australia's offshore processing system resumed in September 2012 for people who came seeking asylum by boat. It was one of the reforms an [expert panel had recommended](#) to the Gillard Labor Government, and was intended to be used as a short-term measure only. While the offshore regime was quickly established, the other recommendations - including cooperation with Malaysia and Indonesia in developing a comprehensive regional framework for processing asylum claims and increasing Australia's intake of refugees - were never implemented.

**On 19 July 2013** the Rudd Labor Government made the policy even more restrictive with people sent to Nauru or PNG being told they would *never* be able to be resettled in Australia. Over 3,000 people were sent to PNG and Nauru under this policy. Prolonged and indefinite detention, combined with bleak future prospects, inflicted great physical and mental harm on many of the people in offshore detention. Australia's immigration detention regime has been widely condemned by human rights bodies for its intentional cruelty and inhumane conditions.

Through the ensuing years, the conditions of detention became increasingly harsh and punitive, and the period of detention became very long term. **14 people died** as a result of being subject to offshore detention - by murder, suicide, and medical neglect. Many others have suffered lifelong injury, and physical and mental illness because of their experience of offshore processing.

Now, 10 years later, the last refugees on Nauru have finally been transferred to Australia. However, 82 men are still trapped in PNG having been abandoned by Australia in December 2021 when the Morrison Coalition government ended Australia's agreement with PNG and declared that Australia had no further responsibility for those people. The current Labor government maintains that position.

### Resettlement of people subject to offshore processing

The Australian Government has arrangements with the USA and New Zealand for those countries to resettle some refugees from Australia's offshore processing centres. As at May 2023, 1,081 people have been resettled in the United States. New Zealand has approved resettlement for 61 people, as part of an agreement to take a total of 450 people over 3 years. An estimated 200 people are in the process of resettlement in Canada through sponsorship by independent groups. However, it is understood that as many as 500 refugees have no pathway to safe resettlement.

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Australia awaiting resettlement

Between 2013 and the present, around [1,150 people were medically evacuated to Australia](#). They remain in community detention or are living on Final Departure Bridging Visas, with restricted rights and limited access to government support. A few are in closed detention. Under the current policy these people are not eligible for permanent resettlement in Australia and are living under restricted conditions of short-term bridging visas, with limited rights and access to government supports and services. Some may have pathways to resettlement in Canada or New Zealand, but that is not guaranteed. These same conditions apply to the people who were recently transferred from Nauru to Australia.

In addition to those held offshore, around 30,000 people who arrived by boat before 19 July 2013 were either on Temporary Protection Visas of SHEVs, or still in the so called [Fast Track Assessment Process](#), introduced in 2014. In February 2023, the Albanese Government announced that 19,000 people on Temporary Protection and Safe Haven visas would be granted permanent visas. The fate of nearly 10,000 other people seeking asylum remains unclear. After 10 long years their claims are either not yet determined or in protracted appeals processes. Some have been denied refugee status but cannot return to their country of origin.

The [ALP acknowledges](#) that fast track processing of asylum claims is flawed and unfair, but the Albanese government has yet to offer any alternative solution to the thousands of people whose claims for asylum were not accepted under the fast track system. Those people continue to be denied permanent protection in Australia.

### **What needs to happen now?**

The Albanese Government came to power on aspiring to a fair and humane refugee policy. We are calling on the government to vigorously pursue its reform agenda and ...

- Allow the remaining 80 refugees and asylum seekers in PNG to come to Australia while resettlement options are found
- Resolve the situation for all people who were subject to offshore detention, offering safe and permanent resettlement options, including in Australia
- Recommit to the UN Refugee Convention by providing fair assessment and appeals processes, and granting asylum regardless of how people arrive in Australia
- Abolish mandatory indefinite detention
- Abolish the unfair Fast Track process, and establish a reassessment process for people refused protection under the Fast Track system
- Ensure that all refugees and asylum seekers living in the Australian community have the right to work, to study, and have access to housing and income support and medical care
- Restore SRSS support to all people awaiting determination of their refugee status, including those in an appeals process

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### **See also ...**

- [10 Years Too Long actions](#)
- [Refugees Off PNG campaign](#)

Also available: **Postcards for printing - 10 Years in Limbo:** ([pdf version](#) and [word version](#))

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### **Sources:**

- <https://www.theguardian.com/news/series/nauru-files>
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa12/002/2013/en/>
- <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/asylum-seekers-and-refugees/information-about-children-immigration-detention>
- <https://www.msf.org/indefinite-despair-report-and-executive-summary-nauru>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/20/my-heart-is-full-of-pain-hotel-detention-is-ruining-lives-ive-seen-the-damage-up-close>

## Addresses for your letters:

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### 1. The Prime Minister

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
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. Clare O'Neil, Minister for Home Affairs

The Hon Clare O'Neil MP  
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)

Or use the 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)

### 3. Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration

The Hon Andrew Giles MP  
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)

#### You may also like to send a copy of your email to:

- Greens Senator Nick McKim [senator.mckim@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckim@aph.gov.au)

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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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Find electorate postal and email addresses for your local MP: [https://www.aph.gov.au/senators\\_and\\_members/members](https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/members)

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Email addresses for Your local MP - [https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members)

You may also like to send a copy of your letter to Senators in your state

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

## EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR ALL SENATORS - UPDATED JUNE 2023

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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.cadell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cadell@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.kovacic@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.kovacic@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcallister@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); [senator.shoebridge@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.shoebridge@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.nampijinpaprice@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.nampijinpaprice@aph.gov.au)

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

[senator.allman-payne@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.allman-payne@aph.gov.au); [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.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)

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[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:

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[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)

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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);  
[Senator.Payman@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.Payman@aph.gov.au); [senator.pratt@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.pratt@aph.gov.au); [senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.smith@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.smith@aph.gov.au); [senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au); [senator.sterle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sterle@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all MPs and Senators - [https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members)

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**NOTE:** If you are sending an email be sure to include your NAME and ADDRESS

The Subject line of your email could be -

**CALL TO ACTION ... .. *Refugees in Limbo – 10 Years Too Bloody Long***

## **SAMPLE LETTER TO PM, HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER, IMMIGRATION MINISTER**

**Date:**

Dear PM/Minister,

The steps taken so far by the Albanese Labor government toward reforming refugee policy are very welcome and encouraging. But much more needs to be done before our treatment of refugees and asylum seekers could be described as fair and compassionate.

It was Labor governments that established mandatory immigration detention, reinstated the cruel, punitive system of “regional processing centres” in 2012, and entrenched unfairness in the administration of refugee policy by discriminating against people seeking asylum according to their means of arrival in Australia. Ensuing Coalition governments increased the punitive nature of immigration detention and oversaw years of neglect and abuse in those centres.

Coming into government in 2022, Labor promised change. It promised a return to fair and compassionate treatment of refugees. It is disappointing, therefore, that the Albanese government continues to uphold all pillars of the Coalition’s Operation Sovereign Borders regime - a system that has had cruelty at its core, inflicting untold suffering on the people subject to it, and which continues to be unjustifiably expensive to the Australian taxpayer. Labor has the opportunity now, and indeed the obligation, to put Australia’s refugee policy back on the right course. It’s time to stop the cruelty, and end the suffering.

I therefore call on the Albanese government to:

- Resolve the situation for all people who were subject to offshore detention, offering safe and permanent resettlement options to everyone, including in Australia
- Recommit to the UN Refugee Convention by providing fair assessment and appeals processes, and granting asylum regardless of how people arrive in Australia
- Abolish mandatory indefinite detention
- Abolish the unfair Fast Track process, and establish a reassessment process for people refused protection under the Fast Track system
- Ensure that all refugees and asylum seekers living in the Australian community have the right to work, to study, and have access to housing and income support and medical care
- Restore access to the Status Resolution Support Services to all people awaiting determination of their refugee status, including those in an appeals process

Too many people have been waiting for far too long for a safe and secure future. I urge the government to urgently address the issues above, and ensure the treatment of people seeking protection here is fair and compassionate.

Yours sincerely

**Your name and address**