

June 2024

Withdraw and abandon the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024

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
- Suggested points to mention in your letter 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)

# Withdraw the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024

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## Why it is important to write (again) about this issue.

If you need a reminder, please see this [Human Rights Law Centre explainer](#) for a brief summary and analysis of the Bill.

Labor may seek to pass the legislation during the June Parliamentary sitting (24-27 June).

A Senate Inquiry has recommended that this atrocious Bill be passed, in spite of strong opposition from human rights organisations, legal and community advocates, and refugee and migrant communities.

The Greens and Senator David Pocock recommended the Bill be rejected. Anticipating that the Senate may seek to pass the Bill, Senator Pocock also recommended amendments. The Coalition submitted a dissenting report, recommending 17 amendments – see a brief overview of these amendments here: [Amendments to the Deportation Bill suggested in the Dissenting Reports](#)

However, Labor does not appear to be listening. **Send a message to the PM, Labor MPs and Senators NOW.**

## KEY CONCERNS ABOUT THE BILL

- It is likely to result in people being returned to danger (refoulement). It is not consistent with the UN Refugee Convention.
- The deportation and visa ban provisions in the Bill will result in forced family separations, affecting many families throughout the Australian community.
- It makes non-cooperation with one's own deportation a criminal offence carrying a mandatory jail sentence, where fear of persecution if returned is not an acceptable reason for non-cooperation.
- It gives excessive powers to the Minister – to revoke refugee status, to expand the visa types subject to deportation orders, and the ability to ban travel and immigration from particular countries if they refuse to accept returning citizens.
- The Bill is unnecessary. The government already has sufficient powers to deport and to continue detaining people it is trying to deport.
- In submissions to the Senate Inquiry many experts suggested that the proposed legislation may not achieve objectives, but would result in many harms

## WHAT WE ARE CALLING FOR - Send a message to Labor MPs and Senators Now.

The proposed legislation is bad policy. It is cruel, based on coercion and fear, and is unlikely to achieve its objectives. It will not only have considerable human and financial costs, but it will also further diminish Australia's standing as a global citizen.

1. **The government must withdraw and abandon the Bill.**
2. **People denied protection under the fast track assessment process must be exempted from any deportation provisions because they have been denied a fair assessment process.**
3. **People denied protection under the fast track assessment process must be given the opportunity for a review of their claims under a new, fair assessment process with pathways to permanency.**

**Suggested points for letters and emails** (*it's not necessary to include all of these points- choose the ones you feel most strongly about*)

- Before the 2022 election, we were assured that Labor would not be 'weak on humanity' and many people believed ALP policy on refugees and people seeking asylum would be fairer. However, if passed, the Albanese Government will be remembered for this draconian legislation. It is likely that many will refuse to vote for Labor if this cruel and unprincipled approach is pursued.

- The proposed legislation is not consistent with values that Labor claims to hold: of fairness, natural justice, building an inclusive and cohesive Australian community and upholding our commitments under the Refugee Convention.
- Demonising refugees and asylum seekers is not good politics – we need humane policy alternatives. Punching down is lazy politics - Labor can never win by 'out-cruelling the Coalition'.
- If implemented, potentially hundreds of people will be jailed for up to 5 years – separated from their families – no longer working or supporting families, and at serious risk of mental health issues – all at considerable and unnecessary cost to our community. Overall, the implementation and administration of the new laws would be resource intensive and complex, and subject to legal challenge – is it really worth it?
- The proposed legislation is not supported by UNHCR – their submission to the Senate Committee makes several references to where the legislation would be inconsistent with our commitments under the UN Refugee Convention.
- Arbitrary visa restrictions from 'removal concern countries' will not only be deeply unpopular with migrant communities here in Australia they also risk damaging our diplomatic relations with countries designated as such. This potentially has massive impacts on our trade relations, migration program, family reunion – and general international 'trust' in Australia.

#### People denied refugee protection under Fast Track must be exempted from any deportation provisions

- Many people who have been denied protection under the 'Fast Track' process, which is widely acknowledged as unfair and flawed, including by the Labor Party, could be affected by this legislation. People denied refugee protection under Fast Track must be exempted from any deportation provisions.  
*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 which allows for the consideration of additional material, and access to independent advice. The highest priority will be allocated to action the orderly and fair resolution of the backlog of cases subjected to the fast-track assessment process. (ALP 2023 National Platform, Paragraph 17, p134.)*  
*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. Labor will abolish this fast track assessment process. (ALP 2021 National Platform, Paragraphs 16-17, p124)*
- It is unconscionable that the government has not implemented a review for all people denied protection under the Fast Track process but instead is allowing those unreliable decisions to stand, leaving people at risk of being returned to danger.
- People who have sought asylum here more than a decade ago and have been living and contributing to our community since then, should not be treated in this way.

#### People who have been subject to years of offshore detention have suffered enough – they need permanent visas

- If passed, the legislation could impact on the 1000 or so people who have been subjected to the cruelty of offshore detention for many years. These are people who, after being evacuated from the offshore detention facilities on Nauru and Manus Island, have been living in Australia for years and are part of our community, living, contributing and building their lives.
- This Bill threatens to compound the harm and trauma of our offshore detention regime with the threat of deportation or imprisonment.

## Who to write to:

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- The Prime Minister, Your **local MP** (if Labor) and all of the Federal Labor Senators in your state
  - The Prime Minister, **Anthony Albanese** Contact Form: <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>
  - Minister for Home Affairs, **Clare O’Neil**  
Email: [Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au)  
Or contact form:  
<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/contact-the-minister>
  - Minister for Immigration, **Andrew Giles**  
Email: [Andrew.Giles.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Giles.MP@aph.gov.au)  
Or contact form:  
<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/contact-the-minister>
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## Addresses for letters:

### Canberra Postal Address for all SENATORS

PO Box 6100  
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 Labor MP here:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/senators\\_and\\_members/members](https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/members)

**Email addresses for ACT Labor senators - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au);

**Email addresses for NSW Labor senators - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[senator.ayres@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ayres@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.sheldon@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au);

**Email addresses for all NT Labor senator - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au);

**Email addresses for Queensland Labor senators - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au); [senator.green@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.green@aph.gov.au); [senator.watt@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.watt@aph.gov.au)

**Email addresses for SA Labor senators - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[senator.farrell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.farrell@aph.gov.au); [senator.grogan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.grogan@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 Tasmania Labor senators - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[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.polley@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.polley@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au);

**Email addresses for Victorian Labor senators - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[senator.cicccone@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cicccone@aph.gov.au); [senator.stewart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.stewart@aph.gov.au); [senator.walsh@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.walsh@aph.gov.au)

**Email addresses for WA Labor senators - copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**  
[senator.ghosh@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ghosh@aph.gov.au); [senator.lines@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lines@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.sterle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sterle@aph.gov.au)

NOTE: When sending emails be sure to **include** your NAME and ADDRESS

The Subject line could be – **Withdraw the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024**

## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear *(insert your local Labor MP's or Senator's name here)*

I am writing to express my opposition to the *Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024*, and I am calling on you to take a stand against this bill.

It is disturbing that the Labor-led Senate Inquiry has chosen to ignore the overwhelming evidence presented from legal experts about the ways this proposed legislation violates Australia's human rights obligations and basic principles of separation of powers and natural justice. It has dismissed the very real concerns of members of our community who fear their families being torn apart through deportation, imprisonment or visa bans.

This proposed legislation is not consistent with Labor principles and values, or the pre-election promise of a return to fair and humane treatment of refugees after the cruelty of Coalition policy. Many people who willingly voted for Labor in 2022 may well be reconsidering their vote in response to the harsh policies now being proposed and implemented.

I urge your government to immediately:

- withdraw and abandon this legislation which violates human rights, gives excessive, unchecked power to the Minister of the day, and presents unacceptable risk that refugees would be deported to danger;
- commit to reconsideration of claims rejected under the unfair *Fast Track Assessment Process* and provide a fair and thorough assessment process that takes into account changed circumstances in countries of origin. Given people have been living in our communities for up to 10 years, allow applications for other types of permanent visas;
- declare a moratorium on deportation of refugees and asylum seekers until such time as their claims have been properly determined and/or reviewed under a new, fair review process.

Looking forward to your immediate attention to these matters.

Yours sincerely