**Sample Media Release –** change as you see fit….

**Refugees have endured Eleven Years of Trauma – it’s far Too Long**

19 July 2024 marks 11 years since the Australian Government decided that no one, regardless of their refugee status would be resettled in Australia, if they travelled by boat. This resulted in untold misery for innocent people fleeing war and persecution and cost Australia over $12 billion.

People across Australia will take action to protest this policy, and call on our government to treat all refugees with decency, and respect the right to seek asylum, in line with international conventions. This is what strong leadership would look like. This is what fair-minded Australians want.

No one wants to live in a prison. No one wants to be incarcerated when they have committed no crime. No one wants their lives to become politicised, to be used as a political football by politicians who don't care about them.

People who flee persecution and seek refugee protection have found themselves in this situation. Not for one day or a few months or for a year, but for 11 years.

This is cruel. It's unjust. It was nasty and firmly placed Australia among the nations that are abhorred for their cruelty.

It's time to say: **enough is enough**. Eleven years is too long. We call on the Australian government to take a sensible and serious approach to offshore detention; close the places of detention and end offshore processing.

Refugees are welcomed into many local communities right across Australia. Most Australians are not cruel and don't want a government that imposes harm on others in policies that are harsh and costly.

The Australian Government must end offshore detention, take responsibility for the refugees abandoned in Papua New Guinea, and evacuate them urgently. It must bring the refugees there and those on Nauru to Australia. It must now remove the ban on resettlement and grant permanent visas to all refugees.

**Add details of your local action here:**

Describe event/action

Date, Time & Place

Contact for local media:

More information – FB event or email or phone