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**Letter kit for June 2025**

## **Letter to the re-elected Albanese Labor Government**

Available to download at –

- <https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>
- <https://ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/write-a-letter>

### **WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO WRITE NOW**



Australia's prime minister, Anthony Albanese, now has the parliamentary strength to push reform. AAP Image/Lukas Coch

With such a sizeable majority in the House, and a much-diminished Opposition, the Albanese Government has a real opportunity to fundamentally shift the narrative on refugees to one of welcome, fairness and compassion - in line with the Prime Minister's appeal to us all for a kinder Australia, "to show kindness to those in adversity" .. and that "no one should be left behind".

**We must urge Labor MPs, Senators, the Minister and the PM to use their mandate to shift refugee policies to be fairer and more compassionate.**

**See below:**

- Background information to inform you as you write your email or letter
- A sample letter – please tweak this to add your individual touch !
- Contact details for politicians to email or write to

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For years Australia was regarded as a model country in its welcoming of refugees and people seeking asylum and was proud of its practice and the positive values that this reflected. Refugees have made and continue to make a rich contribution to the Australian community. Asylum seekers and people from refugee backgrounds are present in all parts of our society and community. This welcoming spirit and the diversity it nurtures and enriches our whole community. Sadly, over the last two decades, this spirit of welcoming has been set aside in preference for a negative narrative that refugees and people seeking asylum are a threat and a burden to Australia. Not only has this harsh approach resulted in significant harm to those subject to the policies it has given rise to, it has also fostered division and hate that undermines the cohesion of Australian society and diminishes us all.

Now, with the decisive election result retuning the Albanese Government and devastating the opposition Liberal Party, we need to be bold in our advocacy, and demand that the Labor Government do more for refugees and people seeking asylum.

**Useful commentary on the election result, and what it means for the campaign for refugee rights can be found here:**

**RACS:** [What a second Albanese Government means for refugees — RACS | Refugee Advice & Casework Service](#)

- Offer certainty and safety to the 8,000 people failed by the unfair and inefficient Fast Track process, and extend the same compassion to individuals affected by offshore processing who lack resettlement options
- Implement further improvements to make the protection process more supportive of the most vulnerable applicants, such as introducing an independent child guardian and making it easier for refugee families to reunite in safety
- Completely abolish all forms of temporary protection for refugees in Australia.

See more detail in the RACS [Roadmap for Refugee Policy Reform](#)

**The Conversation:** [Labor now has the political clout to reset Australia's refugee policy. Here's where to start](#) In this comprehensive article key challenges are explained and a number of priorities are identified:

- creating a new emergency visa for [humanitarian crises](#) to assist people fleeing conflict
- expanding the numbers of refugees accepted and resettled in Australia
- improving the [efficiency and fairness](#) of the asylum seeker process, including strengthening the rights of children and young people, and improving systems for [LGBTQ+](#) asylum seekers (many of whom face heightened risks, are not always believed about their sexuality, and lack culturally sensitive support)
- resolving the status of some 7,000 people subject to the problematic and now-defunct process known as the "[fast track assessment](#)"
- A solution for the roughly 1,000 people who were detained in offshore processing centres in Manus Island and Nauru but are now living in Australia
- [ending offshore processing](#) of refugees
- streamlining the [family reunification process](#)
- making immigration detention [an option](#) that could be used at the discretion of the Department of Home Affairs, instead of being mandatory. Giving people access to independent review of their detention
- Reviewing Australia's boat turnback policy

**Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)** has identified 4 priorities:

- Permanent visas for the 8,000 people unfairly denied fairness under the Fast Track process
- Urgent medical evacuation of those refugees and people seeking asylum who are seriously ill in Port Moresby
- Repeal of the Amendments to the Migration Act (2024) which greatly increased the government's power to deport refugees and people seeking asylum, potentially to danger
- Basic rights and support while people are in the process of having their refugee claims decided.

**Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)** - see letter to the Prime Minister [Refugee sector writes to congratulate Prime Minister Albanese on re-election](#)

## **SAMPLE COVERING LETTER to the Returned Labor Government**

(Date)

Dear PM/ Minister/ Senators/ or MP - *remember to tweak your letter if sending to non-Labor politicians.*

I am writing to let you know that I, along with many other Australians, am relying on the sizeable majority the ALP has achieved to reset Australia's refugee policy. Your recent historic election win was a source of relief for many refugees and refugee advocates - the harsh, punitive policies of the Coalition were not endorsed by Australian voters, and for that we are grateful.

Though positive inroads were made in Labor's previous term of government, current practices still fall short of Australia's responsibilities as a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention. The reelected Labor Government now has an opportunity to review policies and procedures with an eye to developing a kinder, more humane approach to people seeking asylum.

Some of the policies that need urgent attention include:

- Resolving the status of approximately 7,000 refugees who have been living and working in Australia for 13 years on bridging visas and find themselves in legal limbo resulting in stress and uncertainty. These people have a right to a secure pathway to permanency.
- Ensuring the right of people seeking asylum to study, work, access Medicare and receive financial and legal support if necessary while they await a determination on their status.
- Recognising the importance of family reunion to the health and wellbeing of refugees and making the application process and cost less prohibitive.
- Ending offshore processing and evacuating all people who are currently trapped on PNG and Nauru to the Australian mainland. Australia must take responsibility for people seeking asylum rather than sending them to neighbouring countries at a huge cost to the tax payer.
- Repealing the policy of mandatory detention and allowing people seeking asylum to live in the community with essential supports while their claims are assessed.
- Rescinding the 2014 policy that prevents refugees registered with the UNHCR in Indonesia from resettling in Australia.

Pope Leo XIV called for "compassion and solidarity" for those seeking a better life in other countries. As our Prime Minister you have promised a kinder Australia where "no one is held back, no one left behind." I urge you to honour those commitments and deliver a fair and just future for people seeking asylum in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

(Name and address)

## CONTACT DETAILS

### If posting letters:

Prime Minister: PO Box 6022, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Minister Tony Burke: PO Box 6022, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senators: Post to: PO Box 6100, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Your local MP – find their electoral office address at [Search for individual MPs & Senators here](#)

### Sending your letter by email:

- Prime Minister - use the contact form: <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>
- Minister Tony Burke: [tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au)
- Your local MP – if they are Labor, Greens or progressive Independent. Use this link to [Search for individual MPs & Senators on the Parliament House website](#)
- Labor and Greens Senators in your state

### Senators by State

ACT: ALP: [senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au);

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

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### Need more contacts ?

[Listing of all MPs and Senators June 2025](#) This spreadsheet has been updated in June 2025 – but if you find any errors please email [info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au](mailto:info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au) and we'll make corrections. Please download the spreadsheet if you want to sort etc for your own use.