



ARAN Newsletter #2 October 2017

What's in this newsletter?

Current campaign actions & resources – Manus Island Closure on 31 October

Request for information for ARAN members

ARAN Conference 2018

Share your success in New Community journal

Are you working with unions?

News from ARAN member groups - past actions

Manus Is. Centre Closure

The hundreds of men in limbo on Manus are desperate - we must not abandon them as Manus Island Detention centre is closed on Oct 31, and support is withdrawn.

* Write to your local MP, Ministers and PM and local media regarding the men

being abandoned in PNG with the closure of the Manus Island Detention Centre on 31 October.

- * Consider organising an action at your MP's office re this issue
- * See further info and resources [here](#) for background info and key points to make in your letters/emails/phone calls and/or face to face visits – and an editable [poster](#) etc to publicise your action/s.
- * Participate in the #IAmWatching #Manus #SOS - daily protest. Stage your own peaceful sit-in in a public place using the hashtag #IAmWatching.
- * Photograph your sit in and share them and stories about the refugees on social media: twitter, or the Facebook page [here](#). If you can't sit every day just do it once and keep posting your photo using the Hashtags #IAmWatching #Manus #SOS
- * Invite everyone you know to take part at the FB page [here](#).

Please let us know about your actions – (send photos with brief description) – and we will share on the ARAN [Facebook](#) and the ARAN [website](#) or email: austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

GETUP CAMPAIGN – new contractor for Nauru – Queensland based company - Canstruct

The Australian Government has struck an \$8 million taxpayer-funded contract with Canstruct taking to keep the offshore detention regime up and running on Nauru for the next six months, and we understand Dutton wants to see Canstruct detaining people on Nauru for three more years.

There are already 369 people, including children, imprisoned within the Nauru camp. Recently, Minister Dutton told the 900 men on Manus Island they could 'apply' to go to Nauru — shunting them from one prison island to another. Can you contact Canstruct and urge them to walk away from Dutton's deal and his cruel regime? To do so click [here](#).

REFUGEES DENIED PETS – the latest absurdity from Dept of Immigration and Border Protection.

As the Victorian Government is introducing reforms allowing every tenant to own a pet, people seeking asylum are being denied this basic freedom by having to ask permission from the Department. Can you take a picture of you and your pet and post it on your social media with a link to this [ASRC petition](#) asking the Prime Minister to overturn this latest removal of rights for people seeking asylum

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

ARAN Conference 2018 - We are calling on people who are interested in planning for the conference next year. We propose that a conference program committee will be formed, with some members of the ARAN National Committee, plus others – hopefully a rep from each state. This is an exciting opportunity – please [email ARAN](#) if you are interested by 15 November if possible.

Stories from the Refugee Activist and advocacy sector... Do you have a good story to share? The only community development journal in Australia – New Community is seeking stories for an edition of the journal: Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Community supports and political pressures (Volume 15, #4, Issue 60). Can you share your story about the work that is happening in your local community, how you approach campaigning and advocacy – and getting political influence around this issue, and/or other initiatives that build community support for and involvement with refugees. Submissions due: mid-November 2017. Email Jacques Boulet [here](#). (Note – Jacques is very laid back and will be pleased to hear from you – not matter how brief, or detailed your contribution might be).

Also, we will be putting in a short piece on the development and role of ARAN – so if you have anything to contribute to this, please [email ARAN](#) by 10 November.



Union involvement in refugee activism – are you actively working with any unions to on refugee rights issues? With the ALP national conference next year, we are keen to identify unions which are active and/or committed on this issue, and to consider how ARAN can assist with building networks between these unions.

Please email any details [to ARAN](#) (please put Unions in the Subject line), and let us know if you are interested in assisting with this networking project

If you have any other information you would like to share with ARAN member groups – please [email ARAN](#).

PAST CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

GOOD NEWS on Citizenship Bill – discharged from the senate (for now)
Well done all those who sent submissions and letters to senators opposing the Bill. The opposition of the Greens, Labor and the Xenophon Team ensured it would not be supported in the senate, so it was not put to the vote. It shows the power of collaboration and advocacy and what we can achieve together.
Thanks to all involved in raising concerns regarding this bill.

OCTOBER 8 ACTIONS – BRING THE REFUGEES TO SAFETY



Canberra – an estimated 1500 people attended the Rally which got [front page in the Canberra Times](#).

Following passing of a motion by the ACT Assembly calling on the Federal government to bring the people trapped on Manus Island and Nauru under Australia's offshore detention regime to Australia, the Canberra Refugee Action Committee organised for prominent members of the Canberra community including sitting MLAs and former MLAs who support this motion, leading church, union and sporting figures to lead the march on 8 October.



Armidale



Ballina



Hobart took part in nation-wide actions, with a 'Honkathon' on 6 October. We walked a banner onto the road, showing the names of the people who have





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