



ARAN UPDATE October 2018 (please note, if this email does not display properly in your email, view in your browser -see link at bottom of the Update)

Please circulate this Update to your members

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE ?

KidsOffNauru Campaign – priority campaign – Actions by ARAN member groups on or around 24 October

Other information: News reports & media releases

On-going Campaign: SRSS - Cuts to income and housing support for people seeking asylum

Request for information from ARAN member Groups

Information about actions you are planning, and afterwards send photos!

Please let us know your contacts for ARAN updates and social media contacts



Priority campaign: #KIDSOFFNAURU

<https://www.kidsoffnauru.com/> Plan an action at your MP's office – or in a public place – either on or around 24 October. Check [here](#) to see if your event is already listed – if not please send details to austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

This campaign has a lot of momentum, and [some families have been brought to Australia](#) for medical treatment – but we need to keep pushing to make sure all are evacuated from Nauru. PM Morrison needs to know this issue will damage the government if not resolved.

Contact MPs (again!) and urge them to get the Kids Off Nauru

Find contact details for your local MP [here](#)

Email or call the Prime Minister and Bill Shorten to tell them that this shameful and cruel abuse of innocent people must stop, and to bring people to safety.

Prime Minister [here](#) (02) 6277 7700

Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition Bill.Shorten.MP@aph.gov.au (02) 6277 4022

Peter Dutton Peter.Dutton.MP@aph.gov.au (02) 6277 7860

David Coleman David.Coleman.MP@aph.gov.au (02) 6277 4188

Tanya Plibersek Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au (02) 6277 4404

Shayne Neumann Shayne.Neumann.MP@aph.gov.au (02) 6277 4755

You can email all MPs by copying the emails from the Excel spreadsheet [here](#). and paste to the BCC window.

Suggested messages – and/or add your own !

* The situation is DESPERATE - bring the children and their families to safety NOW

- * Their suffering must stop
- * Use your influence to end the unconscionable harm
- * Bring children and families here for medical treatment
- * Say YES to the New Zealand offer to resettle refugees from Nauru
- * Make sure families are not separated

* This violation of human rights and dignity shames all Australians

Write emails or letters – and/or phone – for inspiration see Sample Letters here (also suitable for email) - or send postcards (see links at Resources for October Actions for #KidsOffNauru)

You will find lots of information and current news reports at <https://australianrefugeeactionnetwork.wordpress.com/campaigns/>

Resources for October Actions for #KidsOffNauru on the ARAN website include:

- * Poster to promote your action
- * General posters to raise awareness in your community
- * Handout with background information
- * Draft media release to assist you to get publicity for your event – make your own changes
- * Postcards to politicians – print these off and invite people to sign at your actions/, collect and send off in batches to the politicians. Postcards ready to print: [Prime Minister Morrison](#), [Peter Dutton](#), [David Coleman](#), [Bill Shorten](#), [Tanya Plibersek](#), and [Shayne Neumann](#)
- * Look at the Use Your Voice resource for additional ideas [Use Your Voice Resource Kit](#)

Circulate PETITIONS

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – calls of end to offshore [MSF Petition](#)

Refugee Council of Australia petition – [Kids Off Nauru](#)

GetUp Petition – [Demand Politicians get #KidsOffNauru](#)

Amnesty International – [END THE HARM AND BRING THE KIDS IN DETENTION ON NAURU TO AUSTRALIA](#)

[Australian Greens petition to Close The Camps](#)

[ASRC Petition to evacuate Kids Off Nauru in 100 days](#)

PLAN International – [Add your name to get #kidsoffnauru](#)

OTHER ACTIONS supporting the #KidsOffNauru

campaign

Check [here](#) to see listing of other events

2nd November 1pm: KIds Off Nauru Walk by Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children From ANMF Building 535 Elizabeth Street Melbourne to Victoria Market.

2 November 5pm Darwin – Outside parliament

Initiated by Bishop Phillip Huggins: [Kids message to PM](#) A group of young Aussie kids on video are asking the Prime Minister of Australia to save the children in despair on Nauru.



95 Bells for 95 Children

It is estimated that there are presently 95 children still held in detention on Nauru under Australian Law

*In support of these 95 children,
this Parish will toll a bell 95 times
at midday each Friday until the 20th November.*

20th November is Universal Children's Day
and it is our hope that by that date
The Australian Government will have agreed
to remove all asylum-seeker children from Nauru.

*At midday on Tuesday 20th November,
Universal Children's Day,
we will observe a short prayer vigil
for all children held in captivity or detention,
lawfully or unlawfully. All are welcome.*

The Anglican Parish of Beechworth

FREEDOM BELLS for ASYLUM SEEKERS

St. Mark's, along with the other local Balnarring churches, started to ring their bells once a week until all children are released from detention. A news article about their stand inspired the founding of the Freedom Bells campaign

12noon every Friday and on Tuesday 20 November – churches across Australia will ring their bells for every child on Nauru

Spread the word and encourage your local churches to do the same. Add your church to the listing at www.freedombells.weebly.com

Blue for Nauru on 13 November

KidsOffNauru are calling for special [BlueforNauru](#) actions on 13 November – be thinking for what you can do to support this part of the campaign.

Being on Nauru makes kids “blue” – Lack of mental health services, resignation syndrome and other mental health conditions, self-harm, and general poor living conditions and uncertainty over the future are having a negative impact on them. Register your school/organisation/event at www.kidsoffnauru.com/blue to receive a pack, including a pre-written press release and letter to invite your local MP and media to your event.



SELECTED NEWS REPORTS regarding the situation on Nauru

See links on the ARAN website at [News and Media Reports](#)- KidsOffNauru
WENTWORTH BY-ELECTION RESULT GIVES HOPE

The treatment of refugees was a key issue in the Wentworth by-election, and Kerry Phelps identified as a ‘first order of business’ to get the children off Nauru after the stunning swing against the Government.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australia-s-chief-medical-officer-on-nauru-deported-amid-health-policy-crisis-20181017-p50a3r.html>

Includes video footage MSF Dr Christine Rufener. “Any hope that they have about living a meaningful future has been irrevocably destroyed,” says Dr

Christine Rufener condemning the Nauruan government's decision to force the medical group out of the country.

[Greens propose legislation](#) to get all Kids off Nauru: What does this bill do? This bill would force the Australian Government to bring every child being detained on Nauru to Australia for medical and psychological assessment and treatment. They would all be here in Australia under the protection of Australian doctors and Australian hospitals. The bill is designed to pass through the parliament quickly, with the support of all MPs. It will provide the urgent assistance needed by children on Nauru. We urge the Labor and Liberal parties to support it.

The ALP has also proposed legislation - see details [here](#). However, there are concerns that the legislation leaves the decision in the hands of the Minister – and we know that the minister has resisted the calls of doctors to evacuate people for medical treatment.

RAR Action in Canberra 16 October

RAR Groups attended from Eurobodalla, Bega, Gippsland, Ballarat, Aireys Inlet, Bellarine, Healesville, Wagga, Mansfield, Benalla, Wangaratta, Beechworth, Wodonga, Albury, Newcastle/Hunter Region, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Southern Highlands, Queanbeyan, Braidwood, Armidale, Ballina, Biloela, Cairns.

Supporting rallies were held in Dubbo, Bendigo, Armidale, Tamworth, Bairnsdale, Bellingen/Nambucca Heads, Taree/Manning, Warrnambool, Redlands and Cairns.

The mayor of Leeton travelled with a busload of year 11 students from St Francis College (Leeton) to be part of the action in Canberra.

RAR Action in Canberra 16 October

RAR Groups attended from Eurobodalla, Bega, Gippsland, Ballarat, Aireys Inlet, Bellarine, Healesville, Wagga, Mansfield, Benalla, Wangaratta, Beechworth, Wodonga, Albury, Newcastle/Hunter Region, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Southern Highlands, Queanbeyan, Braidwood, Armidale, Ballina, Biloela, Cairns.

Supporting rallies were held in Dubbo, Bendigo, Armidale, Tamworth, Bairnsdale, Bellingen/Nambucca Heads, Taree/Manning, Warrnambool, Redlands and Cairns.

The mayor of Leeton travelled with a busload of year 11 students from St Francis College (Leeton) to be part of the action in Canberra.



Across Australia Academics for Refugees organised campus events on 17 October calling for an End to the Harm. See [media release here](#).

CONTINUING CAMPAIGN on the cuts to income and housing support for people seeking asylum (SRSS)

We must continue to demand that income support and access to housing for people seeking asylum be maintained – and restored to those who have already lost this support.

ARAN is asking all members to

- * **call and email the PM, Minister Dutton, your MP and Coalition MPs**(see details above)

- * Write letters to newspapers, and share on social media.

- * Plan actions at MP's offices. Key messages: STOP the cruelty – Restore SRSS Fair Go for Refugees – Restore SRSS Dignity not Destitution– Restore SRSS

Click here for the [list of the Federal MPs and Senators May 2018](#)

You could also write to the mayor of your Local Council, and ask that they join with other mayors who are advocating for the restoration of the SRSS supports for people seeking asylum.

Mayors and councillors from 17 Victorian councils have called on the federal government to reverse its cuts to support payments for asylum seekers here on bridging visas. See article here: [Victorian councillors condemn federal cuts to asylum seeker payments](#)

For further information go to [ARAN Stop the SRSS cuts](#) campaign resources and also [RCOA summary re SRSS cuts](#)

CAN YOU HELP US WITH INFORMATION?

1. Let us know about actions you are planning, and afterwards send photos!

2. Please make sure that ARAN has the RIGHT CONTACTS for YOUR GROUP

- a. *Who is the best contact to receive emails and ARAN Updates*– this should be someone who can circulate information to your membership or networks

Name:

Role:

Email:

b. *Who is the best contact for social media* – ie Facebook and Twitter ? (ARAN is looking to be more active on social media, and we hope that member groups can assist with reposting, and retweeting information to maximise the impact.

Name:

Email:

Please send to austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com by **20 September**

3. RAN is working with RCOA and other groups to help plan lobbying strategies in the lead up to the Federal Election. You can help by providing information you may have about the level of support – or otherwise - your local MP or Senator demonstrates for refugees and people seeking asylum. If you have this information please send us

- Name of MP/Senator
- rating (Does not appear to be concerned, May be concerned but runs party line, Has expressed concern),
- any additional comment

Also, are members of your group actively lobbying your MP/s ?

Please send to austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com by **20 September**

THANKS – LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU !

©2020 ARAN | <https://aran.net.au/>

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi®](#)

A GoDaddy® company