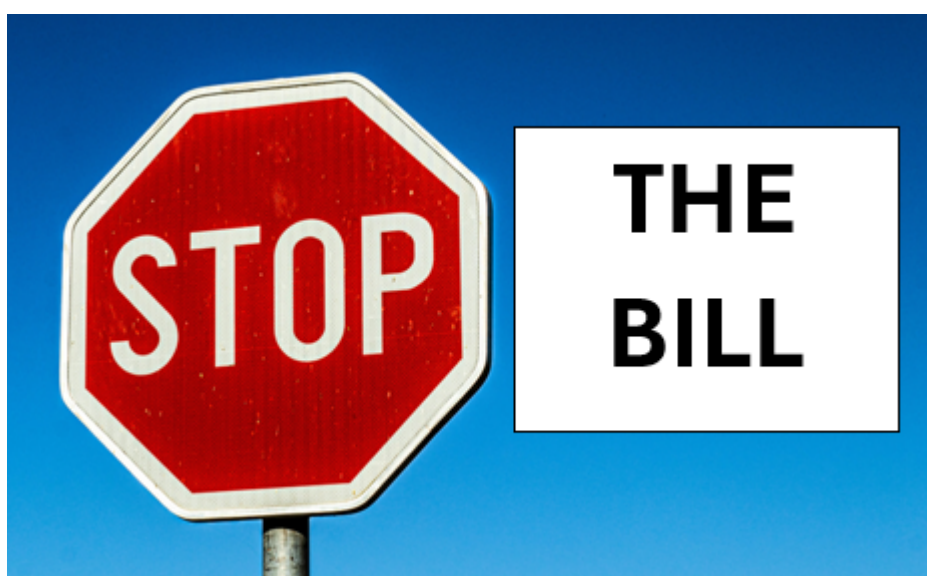


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June 2024 ARAN UPDATE



WHAT'S IN THE UPDATE?

CAMPAIGN ACTION required NOW - See details below

- Lobby Labor MPs and Senators to withdraw the Migration Amendment Bill
- 10,000 people still in visas limbo - after 10 years on 'Fast Track'
- Refugees in PNG still in crisis - Letter Writing and Fundraising

Other initiatives needing support

- Dixtan remains in detention - Sign and circulate the petition below
- Sign [Petition by Mayoral Taskforce for People Seeking Asylum](#)
- Refugees Blood Donation initiative

News

- 16-22 June - Refugee Week - Let others know about your event by [registering here](#).
- RAR Conference 2024 - Oct 11-13 - Kyneton, Victoria
- Overview of Federal Budget, including cuts to SRSS/Income Support payments for people seeking asylum
- Establishment of Administrative Review Tribunal

Coming events - see further details in section below

- Tues 11 June 7.30pm AEST - ARAN Online forum - planning for 11 Years Too Long (19 July anniversary)
- Tuesday 18 June 5.30pm (AEST) 'Finding' Freedom??" on zoom
- Wednesday 19th June, 7pm(AEST): Online seminar: The Current worldwide Refugee Situation and How We Might Use This Information in Campaigning"

TAKE CAMPAIGN ACTION NOW:

Lobby Labor MPs and Senators to withdraw the Migration Amendment 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.

Contact Labor MPs and Senators Now - phone, email , write letters:

1. Urge Labor MPs and Senators to withdraw and abandon the Bill.
2. Highlight that refugees owed protection by Australia could be at risk of being deported to danger because:

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- thousands of people would be at risk from this Bill because they have never had their refugee claims fairly assessed – they were assessed under the intentionally unfair Fast Track process.

3. Demand that people denied protection under the Fast Track assessment be given a fair process and pathways to permanency.

Use these [suggested points](#) to raise with Labor politicians

See letter writing Kit: [Letter Writing](#) | [Australian Refugee Action Network ARAN](#) (available from Sat 8 June)

Further information on the Bill: Thanks to Brisbane RAC for sharing video footage of rally held on 11 May: You might like to see the [YouTube of the speakers at the rally in Brisbane Sat 11 May](#). The speech by Rita Jabri Markwell, Human rights lawyer and advocate, is a particularly good explanation of the deeply troubling parts of the bill. See also [Channel 7 News coverage](#).

10,000 people still in visas limbo - after 10 years on 'Fast Track'

Despite the stunning efforts of those refugee women who walked from Melbourne to Canberra, and from Sydney to Canberra last year, the Labor Government has not made any significant moves to provide a fair process and permanency. **Please sign the [WAVE petition](#)** [Calling for Permanent Visas](#). Discussions are underway regarding the presentation of the petition in coming months, together with the report on The Big Walk for Refugees - A Big thanks to all who got involved: Together over six weeks, 700 participants walked (and ran, swam, cycled and danced) their way through an incredible 74,000 kilometres to show support for 10,000 refugees who have been living in our communities without certainty for more than a decade. That was a total of 108 million steps, 4.4 laps of Australia, and nearly 17000 laps of Parliament.



If you would like to join the Permanency and Family Reunion Network to work on building the campaign for fair process and permanent visas, email Caroline Fleay C.Fleay@curtin.edu.au or Marie Hapke info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au for details.

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The situation continues to be very serious for over 50 men (many now with families) still stuck in Port Moresby, as services are being withdrawn, and living allowances are not being paid. A Campaign Group convened by Kevin Sweeney is working on lobbying strategies. At this stage there is very little indication that the Australian Government is motivated to intervene. If you would like to join the Refugees Off PNG and Nauru Campaign Group contact Kevin: kevin2sweeney@me.com

Will you send an email or letter to voice your concern about the people still in PNG, and demand action by our government? See suggestions here [Emails and letters on behalf of those abandoned in PNG](#)

Funds are desperately needed: Please circulate the Chuffed fundraiser for donations [Immediate help for Australia's refugees still in PNG](#)

Other initiatives needing support

- **Dixtan remains in detention - Sign and circulate the petition** [Please let my son Dixtan stay with me in Australia where I know he'll be safe](#)



- **Sign the petition calling for refugee rights:** [Petition by Mayoral Taskforce for People Seeking Asylum](#) Find out more about the Mayoral Taskforce here: [Campaign resources – Back Your Neighbour Campaign / Local Government Mayoral Taskforce](#)

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10,000 Refugees contributing to Australia' Team. Please encourage refugees and people seeking asylum to join, and share the posts from the [Facebook page](#) for this initiative .



- Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia - 100 Groups, 100 Days campaign. To find out more go to <https://refugeesponsorship.org.au/>

News

Federal Budget - overview of provision for refugees and people seeking asylum

While there is some welcome news in the budget for refugee resettlement, there are savage cuts to the SRSS/Income Support cut for people seeking asylum. We know that people on Bridging Visas (and those with no visas) are not eligible for any Centrelink payments. The SRSS payment (now known as payments for Asylum Seeker Support) is vital for many individuals and families who cannot work. The Federal Government has cut the budget for this support by 50% in the recent budget. Spending on this vital program has been cut by 95% since 2015-16, from \$300 million to just \$16 million. See further detail here: [The 2024-25 Federal Budget: What it means for refugees and people seeking humanitarian protection](#) (Refugee Council of Australia)

In summary other budget announcements include:

- No increase to the humanitarian intake
- No increased provision of work rights, study rights and access to mainstream social support for people seeking asylum
- No support for refugees abandoned in PNG without food and financial aid
- Spending \$604 million, in the next year, keeping people in brutal offshore processing centres on Nauru

The government is making progress on establishing the new Administrative Review Tribunal - See [Update on establishment of the ART](#) and also budget details in RCOA

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[academics as refugee policy advocates: lessons from Australia \(tandfonline.com\)](#).

2024 Policy Studies, 1–25.

Coming events

Tuesday 11 June 7.30pm (AEST) ARAN forum - Planning for 11 years Too Long (19 July anniversary) - the anniversary of offshore processing is 19 July 2024. Join the ARAN forum to share your ideas about how to highlight the cruelty of offshore detention, and the ongoing uncertainty for those still without a pathway to permanency. Join the zoom: [Planning discussion for 11 Years Too Long](#).

REFUGEE WEEK events

Tuesday 18 June 5.30pm (AEST) 'Finding' Freedom??

On zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84264847135>

Speakers: David Shoebridge (the Greens Immigration spokesperson); Hassan- refugee paralegal in Indonesia; Sophie Singh (Canberra Refugee Action Campaign); Neil Para-founder, Australian Union of Refugees. Organised by HASA.

Wednesday 19th June, 7pm(AEST) Online seminar: The Current worldwide Refugee Situation and How We Might Use This Information in Campaigning” with Madeline Gleeson: [Register here](#)

About Madeline: Madeline Gleeson is a lawyer and Senior Research Fellow at the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney, where she directs the Offshore Processing and Regional Protection projects. Madeline specialises in international human rights and refugee law, with a focus on the law of State responsibility, extraterritorial human rights obligations, offshore processing on Nauru and Manus Island, and refugee protection in the Asia-Pacific region. She has conducted research on asylum seekers and refugees, statelessness, human trafficking, labour migration and land grabbing in Cambodia, and worked with the UNHCR and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) in Geneva. Organised by Rural Australians for Refugees.

October 11 - 13 RURAL AUSTRALIANS for REFUGEES (RAR) conference 2024 Opening night Friday October 11 in the historic Kyneton Town Hall, with Behrouz Boochani as the feature speaker. The conference continues on Saturday and Sunday. Mostafa Azimitabar and Farhad Bandesh will join for the Saturday evening showing of Freedom is Beautiful. For more info go to [RAR CONFERENCE](#) or contact organizers on: conference24.rar@gmail.com

DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE ?

Send us photos and details of your activities for the next ARAN Update. Please email to austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

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