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ARAN Update November 2024



- **URGENT ACTION** - contact senators and call on them to **VOTE NO** on the new 'Deportation Bill' (Nov 2024)
- **Contact your Labor MPs re Permanent Visas** - in solidarity with Fast Track refugee protests
- **Write to the Minister** regarding the refugees in crisis in PNG
- **Advice on resettlement in New Zealand**
- **Other news**

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Deportation Bill is passed with new Australia to deport people to danger - Ask Senators in your state to VOTE NO

Once again the Labor Government is seeking to strengthen powers to forcibly deport people, including people who may have previously been granted refugee status. The provisions of the Bill are very concerning, and all refugee supporters are encouraged to email federal Senators to alert them to the many reasons why the Bill should not be passed. The proposed legislation would allow the government to:

- Pay any third country to receive people that Australia wants to deport, regardless of whether they would be safe in that country, or have any reasonable chance of safe resettlement there.
- Separate people from their families who may have been living in Australia for many years
- Cancel refugee protection visas, and deport people who have reasonable claims for refugee protection in Australia

Call on politicians to honour the Refugee Convention, and to ensure people are not deported to places where they would be in danger, or have no prospects of safe resettlement. Go to [Guide for contacting Senators re Migration Act Amendment Nov 2024](#), for more information, suggested points to raise in letters and emails, and details for contacting senators and your local MP.

PROTESTS FOR PERMANENT VISAS continue - support by writing to Labor MPs and Senators, and supportive Independents



Sydney 24/7 Protest for Permanent Visas - now more than 100 days

Refugees in Sydney continue their 24/7 protest. You can send a message of support - record a brief clip on your phone and share on to the FB page: [24 Hour Continuous Protest For Permanent Visa](https://www.facebook.com/24HourContinuousProtestForPermanentVisa) facebook.com (Sydney Protest) or send to Kalyani Inpakumar on WhatsApp.

On Sunday 17 November around 200 refugees and supporters walked from the Minister's office in Punchbowl to the Prime Minister's office - around 10kms.



In Brisbane refugees continue to protest 9am - 9pm at the office of Treasurer Jim Chalmers - now more than 90 days. Refugees in Melbourne (108 days), Adelaide and Perth(around 40 days) have wrapped up their 24/7 protests, but various local actions are

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While we are not expecting a formal announcement, we understand the Minister is considering options for permanency for people refused under the Fast Track process.

With a Federal election in coming months, [NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION](#).

Even if you have already contacted politicians - please keep up the effort. Contact local Labor, Greens and Independent MPs and Senators, and the Minister for Home Affairs – send letters or emails, make phone calls, and ask for meetings to discuss the issue. See details here: [Updated call for Action for Permanency Nov 2024](#)

See also [Crossbench MPs call on prime minister to make pathway for asylum seekers stuck in 'limbo' - ABC News](#)

Need more information? [This FAQ on Fast Track \(Refugee Advocacy Network Aug 2024\).docx](#) provides an overview.

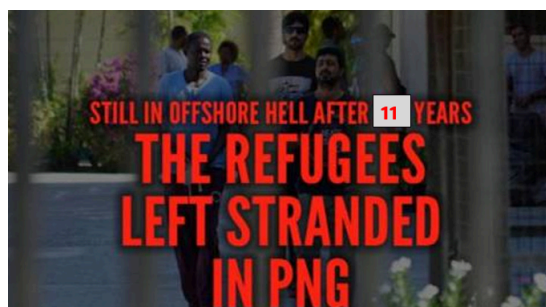
The UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) states that “it is apparent that the fast track review process is inadequate to ensure a fair and efficient protection assessment process to identify persons in need of international protection” See: [The protection of Australia's so-called 'legacy caseload' asylum-seekers](#)

The UNHCR also says that granting permanency is the correct response, recommending that States consider “appropriate arrangements”

for persons “who cannot be expected to leave the country of asylum, due to a long stay in that country resulting in strong family, social and economic links” See . [Cessation of Status No. 69 \(XLIII\) - 1992 | Refworld](#) (point E)

CONTINUING CRISIS FOR REFUGEES ABANDONED IN PNG

The Australian Government has proposed a new deal with the PNG Government to reinstate funding to support the refugees and their families in Port Moresby. There are still 42 men in PNG, 10 of whom need immediate evaluation to Australia for mental health treatment.



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responsibility onto individual refugees to find and negotiate their own accommodation, and to pay all expenses from an inadequate allowance. The refugees are at significant risk of exploitation and we also know that some of the men are mentally ill and are entirely unable to look after themselves.

To be eligible for the weekly allowance the men must sign a contract in which they agree to take full responsibility for their own housing, health and also to find resettlement options.

See detail: [ASRC Media Release 15 Nov 2024](#). *“Yet again, people banished to offshore detention in PNG are being put in harm’s way with another round of uncertainty and change. While we welcomed the reinstatement of support, we didn’t envisage people would be set up to fail from the outset.”* Jana Favero, ASRC Deputy CEO.

There are still 42 men who have been trapped in PNG since 2013 - they cannot leave unless they have a pathway to safety and secure future. See link to the [November Letter](#) - make sure to mention that the ‘new deal’ will put most of the men at greater risk of homelessness.

[Donations are still required](#) - funds collected are distributed by Sr Jane Keogh, who has a good knowledge of who needs assistance in PNG. You can donate here: [Immediate help for Australia's refugees still in PNG](#).

A Campaign Group convened by Kevin Sweeney is working on campaign strategies. If you would like to find out more contact: kevin2sweeney@me.com.

ADVICE ON RESETTLEMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

REMINDER: Anyone who wants to consider the opportunity to resettle in New Zealand needs to apply, or reactivate their application by December this year, to allow for processing time. See more information [here](#) and also the Expression of Interest Form for Resettlement to New Zealand. If an interpreter or any other assistance is needed email UNHCR at aulcarel@unhcr.org. See news article [here](#) regarding the NZ Resettlement Deal, highlighting that it is unlikely that 450 will be taken up before 30 June 2025.



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Over 200 people attended the conference and participated in a packed program of workshops and keynote speakers.
[See photos from the conference here.](#)

DO YOU HAVE ANY 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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