

**The mechanic who fixes your car. The hairdresser who gives you a new style.  
The gardener who prunes your roses. The tradies who renovate your bathroom.  
The teenager who serves you a delicious kebab. The doctor who provides you with life-saving treatment. The soccer coach who encourages your kids.  
The neighbours who feed your cat while you're away.**

**Refugees. They could be any of these people.  
And in different circumstances, they could be you.**



### **The current situation for refugees:**

#### People who are already in Australia

People who came by sea to ask for safety have been waiting (many more than three years) for the government to allow them to lodge their cases for asylum. When they were finally allowed to apply, they were required to complete complex legal forms (more than 60 pages long and requiring a lot of additional supporting information). However, the government cut funding for most legal support.

People have been left to navigate a very complicated system with:

- Very long waiting lists at free refugee legal services
- An October 1 2017 deadline for applications to be submitted (This meant that applications were rushed and some people went ahead without legal support, risking omitting vital information)
- No right to meaningful review (if someone's application is initially rejected, it is simply looked at a second time, but there is no opportunity to provide additional information)

**It is very likely that, in this system, the government will deport people back to harm who would otherwise be found to be refugees fleeing real danger.** If someone's case is accepted, the best case scenario is that they are given a temporary protection visa (3 or 5 years). This leaves them in a state of limbo where they are not allowed to be reunited with their families and are unable to move forward with their lives.

#### People who are held offshore

From July 19, 2013, anyone coming by sea for safety has been held indefinitely by the Australian government, in detention facilities on tiny islands in Nauru and PNG. **Despite around 80 - 90% of these people being assessed to be refugees escaping real danger and in need of protection, they have been forced to wait more than four years,** accommodated in terrible conditions in tents, shipping containers and disused army huts. Throughout this time, the government has been pressuring them to return to danger. Nine people have also died there due to causes which include assault by the guards, medical neglect, or ending their own lives due to the hopelessness they feel.

Just in the last few weeks, around 50 people have finally been offered resettlement places in USA through a deal struck by the Australian Government. **However, no-one knows how many people will be allowed to go to USA, and what will happen to the rest.** The government is not providing any answers.

**EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE TREATED FAIRLY.  
EVERYONE NEEDS SAFETY FOR THEIR FAMILY. WHAT IF IT WAS YOU?  
Ask our politicians for a policy change. Email addresses overleaf.**

**Please write to the following politicians, to ask for a fair go for refugees:**

Sarah Henderson MP, Member for Corangamite: Sarah.Henderson.MP@aph.gov.au

Richard Marles MP, Member for Corio: Richard.Marles.MP@aph.gov.au

Immigration Minister, Peter Dutton: minister@border.gov.au

Shadow Minister for Immigration, Shayne Neumann MP: Shayne.Neumann.MP@aph.gov.au



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