

# FIVE YEARS TOO MANY

## The shameful tragedy of Manus and Nauru

After five years of the indefinite detention of asylum seekers and refugees on Manus and Nauru, what do we know?

**We know** that more than 2,000 asylum seekers who arrived by boat to seek our protection have been abandoned on offshore islands.

**We know** that conditions for the detainees are terrible: mouldy tents, violence at the hands of guards and locals, physical and sexual abuse, and inadequate medical facilities.

**We know** that more than forty children are detained on Nauru, with another one hundred living precariously outside the detention centre. They are not receiving any education. Many of them have significant mental health problems.

**We know** that the majority of all the detainees are suffering from serious mental health issues.

**We know** that the medical support for the detainees is woefully inadequate. Requests made by medical staff and officials for patients to be transferred to Australia for urgent treatment are routinely denied.

**We know** that the system is deliberately designed to break people's spirit and to coerce them into returning to their homeland.

**We know** that to date twelve detainees have died as a result of medical neglect, suicide or fatal assaults by the guards who are paid by the Australian government to take care of them.

**We know** that our government spends more than \$500,000 per year to detain just one person offshore. That's \$2BILLION a year.

**We know** that, for the major political parties, all this suffering and all these deaths are a price they are willing to pay for purely political purposes. Winning votes takes precedence over principle and compassion.

**We know** that change will only happen when the Australian people demand an end to this cruel policy which shames us all.

**We are here today** because of what we know.

**We are here today** to send a message to politicians that we intend to keep up the fight for an end to the cruelty of offshore detention.

**We are here today** because we refuse to look the other way whilst detainees on Manus and Nauru continue to suffer and die.

**We are here today** to say loudly: "not in our name!" As Australians, we are better than this.

**How long** will it take our politicians to accept that this cruelty must end?

**How many** more deaths will it take for the Australian people declare that enough is enough?

**How much more** taxpayers' money must be wasted before our government wakes up to the fact that there are better, more humane ways of resolving these issues?

Please consider joining us in our campaign for a more compassionate country. Telephone Malcolm Turnbull (02 6277 7700) and Bill Shorten (02 6277 4022) to demand an end to offshore detention.

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