



POLICY ON PEOPLE SEEKING REFUGE AND ASYLUM

PURPOSE: To provide a consistent approach to people seeking refuge and asylum when meeting with government representatives and political organisations.

RESPONSIBILITIES: RAR Executive and Membership

PREAMBLE: Australia needs to regain its moral credibility by the following:

- Recognise that people who arrive in Australia by using people smugglers are human beings who need help.

PROCEDURE:

Rural Australians for Refugees will advocate to:

- End offshore detention. Resettle in Australia those found to be refugees.
- End mandatory detention of asylum seekers, while allowing for detention if exceptional circumstances are shown. Treat detainees with respect, not as criminals. Do not separate families unless exceptional circumstances exist.
- Process refugee and visa claims in a timely, efficient and consistent manner. Simplify the visa system and grant only permanent visas,
- Use the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 as a guiding principle in framing refugee policy.
- Use the UN Refugee Convention 1951 as the yardstick for determining refugee status.
- Never deport asylum seekers to danger.

An alternative to Australia's current deterrent policy would;

1. Address the causes for people becoming refugees. Use diplomatic, trade and aid muscle to leverage better treatment of persecuted minorities in our region.
2. Work with our regional neighbours currently hosting refugees, to provide Australian aid for safety, support, education and work rights.
3. Support the 2018 UN Global Compact on Refugees. Fund UNHCR to set up more processing centres for those applying for refugee status and visas in our region.
4. Increase our refugee intake.

Drafted by: RAR National Conference April 8, 2018

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Approved by RAR Executive:

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