



LET THEM KNOW WE CARE



*I was a stranger and you made  
me welcome...*

***STRENGTH AND KINDNESS***

***Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP)***

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Working for change in Australia's treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum is an ongoing challenge. These are amongst the most vulnerable members of our society. We need constantly to keep reminding our leaders in the Government and the general public that justice demands they be treated with dignity and compassion.

Australia breaches human rights in many ways in its treatment of those who seek protection here. We chip away at the components of treatment one by one as we can. This particular campaign is to achieve a better outcome for those currently in Community Detention who may be forced to find their own housing and money to live with little preparation.

Members of Parliament have a duty to listen to our concerns. We ask you to take part in this letter writing campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Brigid Arthur and Libby Saunders  
Coordinators

# LET THEM KNOW WE CARE

HELP US MAKE AN IMPACT



## READ THE MEDIA STATEMENT PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM BEING ABANDONED TO HOMELESSNESS!

If you have time, also read the Refugee Council of Australia Report on Detention Seven -Years- On <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/seven-years-on>

## HANDWRITE LETTERS TO MP'S

NOT AN EMAIL!

Refer to the names & addresses of relevant/influential MP's.

Use the bullet points about the federal governments planned destitution policy for people seeking asylum being released from community detention to compose your letter(s) or use one of the sample letters.



## KEEP A TALLY ON HOW MANY LETTERS YOU WRITE & SEND

OUR AIM IS TO REACH 10,000!

Communicate your tally & who you have written to with the person who emailed this request to you.

## INVOLVE OTHERS

ENCOURAGE FRIENDS, FAMILY, GROUPS

Forward this email to as many people as you can to invite them to join you. Make sure they let you know how many & to whom they have written letters to.



IF NOT,  
NOW  
WHEN?

## PLEASE PICK UP YOUR PEN & DO IT NOW

VOICE OUT YOUR CONCERNS

Our politicians need to know now that as a society we are better than this. During this pandemic we are clearly NOT all in this together!.

Contact: Sr Brigid Arthur,  
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project,  
[barthur@basp.org.au](mailto:barthur@basp.org.au)



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# Hundreds more people seeking asylum being abandoned to homelessness

Bullet Points for your letters



## CURRENTLY PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY DETENTION

Are people seeking asylum, detained for upto 6 years with no decision on their future. They are provided with housing and a small allowance from the government that has to cover food, travel, utilities & day to day expenses. People have no right to work or study.

## WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?

Many asylum seekers in community detention have been given 3 weeks to vacate their homes and advised all assistance will cease. This will result in destitution, homelessness, health & mental stress, dire safety & well-being risks.



## WHAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT BE DOING?

If they proceed, to give a longer transition period and income support to all



WHAT HAPPENED TO 'FAIR GO'?  
DECENT AUSTRALIANS ARE NOT CRUEL  
OUR POLITICIANS REPRESENT US SO LET  
THEM KNOW IT'S NOT ON!

## Suggested letter for your local MP. Make your own modifications.

Your Name  
Street Address  
Suburb, Postcode  
Phone  
Email  
Date

Recipient Name  
Title  
Electoral Office  
Street Address  
Suburb, Postcode

Dear Recipient Name:

I am a long- term resident of our electorate, and I am writing to express my concern at the Federal Government's decision to evict people seeking asylum currently living in community detention housing across Australia. To do this with three weeks' notice, and to remove all assistance including a basic stipend, is inhumane, unjust, and frankly NOT the Australian way.

Can you please explain to me the justification for this decision?

How are these people expected to survive to find housing and employment in this environment? People will be destitute and homeless. The health, mental health, safety, and well-being of each and every one of these people will suffer greatly. It makes me ashamed to be an Australian.

Please tell me what you are going to do about this?

Sincerely,

Your Name

## Suggested letter for relevant MP's. Make your own modifications.

Your Name  
Street Address  
Suburb, Postcode  
Phone  
Email  
Date

Recipient Name  
Title  
Electorate Office  
Street Address  
Suburb, Postcode

Dear Recipient Name:

This letter is to complain about the Federal Government's decision to cease the destitution policy for people seeking asylum being released from community detention.

What harm are these people doing? It is a basic human right to provide food and shelter for those who cannot afford to do so. These people will have their small stipend taken away and be evicted from where they live. In effect they will be forced into destitution and homelessness. To do so at any time let alone during the Covid-19 pandemic is the definition of cruelty.

What example are we giving to our children with these punitive actions by our own government? It makes me ashamed to be an Australian. We as a society are better than this.

I expect a much higher level of compassion from my elected government.

I ask you directly (insert name), what are you going to do about this?

Sincerely,

Your Name