



Grandmothers for Refugees is a grass roots movement that advocates for compassionate welcome and safe settlement of all people seeking asylum.

We advocate for all who are punished by Australia's cruel and inhumane treatment of refugees. We are particularly concerned about the impact this has had on those who came here as children or who are still children.

These numbers tell some of our nation's shameful response to people seeking safety. (Source: *Asylum Insight*)

34,391 people in Australia waiting for a decision on their refugee claim. Some have waited for years.

540 people, many recognised as genuine refugees, in community detention with no right to work or study.

182 children in community detention

1900 children in families with Bridging Visas who have no income or housing support and rely on charity to survive.

<5 children in locked detention, including two little girls in the remote Christmas island prison.

141 people held in prison hotels and places under 24/7 guard.

1343 people in locked immigration detention centres and prison compounds.

Lifelong detention of refugees is no solution

During the pandemic, all of us got a taste of what lockdown feels like. We struggled with being cut off from loved ones for days and weeks on end.

Refugees have been locked up for more than eight years!!

These people have not committed any crime. Refugees are forced by circumstances to flee from danger, even death. They came here

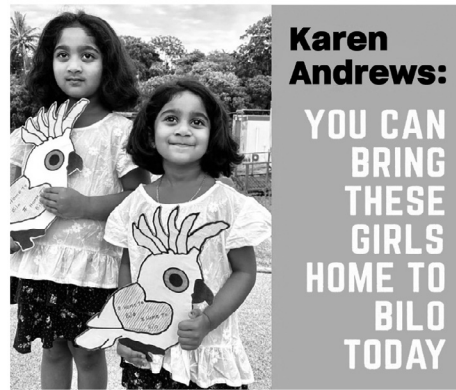
looking for help, hoping we would give them a safe place to rebuild their lives.

Successive Labor and Coalition governments have said that desperate people who came on boats will 'never, ever be able to settle in Australia.'

Just 37 boats and an estimated 850 people have allegedly tried to come to Australia in the past eight years. In the meantime, tens of thousands have come by plane and have been free to work, study and apply for protection.

A FAIR GO FOR ALL!

Everyone has a right to seek asylum. It is not illegal to be a refugee.



Good riddance, Peter Dutton

As the new Minister for Home Affairs, Karen Andrews has a chance to do what her male predecessors have failed to do. She can listen to the voices of Grandmothers and release these little girls who should be growing up at home in Biloela, not imprisoned on Christmas Island.

Please add your voice to ours and write urgently to:

The Hon Karen Andrews
Minister for Home Affairs
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Or email: karen.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au

Grandmothers for Refugees lobby for a humane refugee policy that is consistent with international human rights and obligations.

- ✓ We write letters and attend rallies.
- ✓ We hold vigils outside MP's offices.
- ✓ We pop-up on street corners and roundabouts.
- ✓ Grandmothers and friends talk to their friends and neighbours to build community awareness about refugees.
- ✓ We are active in cities, suburbs, regional cities and small towns.
- ✓ We are visible and we are vocal.



Why not JOIN US?

Membership is free. Friends of Grandmothers (Frogs) are welcome.

Join via our website
www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

Contact us via email
info@grandmothersforrefugees.org

Follow us on



Donations are welcome

We use funds donated for printing and other materials to support our activities.

You can donate by direct funds transfer to our bank account:

Name Grandmothers for Refugees
BSB 083170
Account 83 813 3480

Refugee detention business is a billion \$\$ business for some

The federal government has quietly extended its **refugee contract for Nauru, handing Queensland firm Canstruct \$221 million for the six months to June 30** or \$10,000 a day for each detainee on the island.

The extension takes the total amount earned by the Murphy family's private company to \$1.4 billion since September 2017 and came even though the number of detainees on the island had fallen to about 120.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton did not announce the contract amendment, the seventh since **Canstruct took over from facilities manager Broadspectrum**, which quit running Australia's off-shore processing centres after being targeted by refugee advocates. (*Financial Review*, 12 Feb 2021)

In 2020, *Nine News* reported that the **Morrison Government handed over \$2,549,340,000 of taxpayer money to Serco** for management of the nation's detention centres.

At the time, Australia had just 1373 people in detention – and 213 of them were being housed in hotels, hostels and hospitals.

The \$1.94 billion five-year contract was quietly extended for another two years.

Meantime ... The Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) in Victoria receives no government support whatsoever. It has become the de facto safety net for hundreds of refugees, including children, denied any income or housing support once they are pushed out of government detention.

BASP relies completely on charitable support to keep refugees and asylum seekers from destitution and despair. As a taxpayer, where would you rather see your money being spent?

Why not email the Federal Treasurer and let him know? josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au