



## Dear Grandmothers and Friends

It is with welcome relief that our first newsletter for 2023 can feature positive [news](#) for refugees and their advocates.

At last, a pathway to permanent residency has been laid out for 19,000 men, women and children who came here seeking asylum before 2014.

By this time next year, all those who have current or renewable Temporary Protection or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas can expect to have permanent residency.

In a related announcement by the Albanese Government, all people who have permanent residency will be able to apply immediately for family reunion visas.

It is with sadness, however, that we recognise the deep pain this announcement causes to the 12,000 who are excluded from joining the pathway to permanency.

So that we all can engage with confidence about this change in circumstances for people who have waited too long to rebuild their lives, in this edition we provide you with as much information as is currently available from various reliable sources.

Fact sheets and information updates will be posted on our website as they become available.



**We extend a warm welcome to every new member.**

In further news we are pleased to report that we have grown over the summer.

Grandmothers NSW has now formally joined the national movement.

This extends our strategic reach from coast to coast across the country...from Newcastle in the east to Curtin in the west.

It enhances our proven effectiveness in organising within federal electorate boundaries to advocate for refugees in our local communities.

We now have greater numbers and strengthened ability to speak to the national parliament with a national voice.

This is significant as we make the case for the next stage of refugee policy-making to ensure that no-one – not a single refugee – is left behind. ○



## Grandmothers welcome the right to stay for 19,000 refugees

Statement issued: 14 February 2023

Grandmothers for Refugees shares the relief of thousands of refugees who, from today, are on a recognisable pathway to permanent residency and family reunions in Australia.

The Albanese Government's announcement that it is ready to resolve the status of 19,000 refugees on temporary protection and safe haven enterprise visas with full rights to permanent protection is being celebrated by refugees and their advocates.

"This is so welcome after more than a decade of cruel uncertainty inflicted on displaced and vulnerable people by previous Australian governments.

"We appreciate the process outlined has complexities to be managed for some. However, it appears that the government has tried to make it as smooth as possible for most of those who can expect to have their permanent residency confirmed within 12 months.

"At the same time, we are mindful of the heightened distress for another 12,000 people seeking permanent protection who are excluded from the process announced yesterday.

"Grandmothers for Refugees will continue to advocate vigorously within our local communities for permanent protection for ALL refugees.

"We will lobby MPs and Senators to totally dismantle the scandalously expensive regime of deliberate cruelty to refugees still being promoted by Opposition Leader Peter Dutton and remnants of the Morrison Coalition government.

"Our clear message is that weaponising the vulnerability of others, especially children, for political gain is unworthy of anyone seeking to represent us in the national parliament."

Grandmothers for Refugees will be joining capital city and regional rallies urging Justice for All Refugees on Palm Sunday, April 2nd and invites others to join us.

### **Margaret Browne and Jean Ker Walsh**

Co-chairs



Monday, 13 February 2023

Statement issued by: **Hon Andrew Giles MP** with **Hon Clare O’Neil MP**

## Delivering a permanent pathway for Temporary Protection Visa holders

The Albanese Government is delivering on its election commitment to provide a permanent visa pathway for existing Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) holders.

Refugees on TPVs and SHEVs have been kept in a state of limbo for the last decade. The Albanese Government made a commitment to provide a permanent pathway for these visa holders and today the Government is delivering on that commitment.

Minister for Home Affairs and Cyber Security, the Hon Clare O’Neil MP said the commitment only applied to persons who entered Australia prior to the commencement of Operation Sovereign Borders.

“Let me be crystal clear – if you try to enter Australia without a valid visa you will be turned back or returned to your port of origin. There is zero-chance of settling in Australia under Operation Sovereign Borders.”

“The Australian Defence Force and Australian Border Force are patrolling our waters to intercept and return any boats that try to enter.”

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Andrew Giles MP said all people on TPVs and SHEVs have been found to be refugees, and are owed Australia’s protection.

“There are thousands of TPV and SHEV holders in the community that have endured ten years of uncertainty due to the policies of the previous Liberal government.” Mr Giles said.

“TPV and SHEV holders work, pay taxes, start businesses, employ Australians and build lives in our communities- often in rural and regional areas. Without permanent visas however, they’ve been unable to get a loan to buy a house, build their businesses or pursue further education.”

“It makes no sense – economically or socially – to keep them in limbo.”

To assist TPV and SHEV holders with the visa application process, the Albanese Government has committed \$9.4 million over two years for visa application assistance through specialist legal service providers across Australia.

The Albanese Government believes that we can keep our borders safe while showing humanity too.

Australia’s Operation Sovereign Borders policy architecture remains unchanged. Anyone who attempts an unauthorised boat voyage to Australia will be turned back to their point of departure, returned to their home country or transferred to another country.

All non-citizens who are found to not engage Australia’s protection obligations and have exhausted all avenues to remain in Australia are expected to depart as soon as possible.

**More information, including factsheets in various languages, is available on the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).**

### Stay

Permanently

### Cost

Nil

### Processing times

Processing times vary

### With this visa, you can...

- live, work and study in Australia permanently
- access benefits from [Services Australia](#) and [Medicare](#)
- access [short-term counselling for torture and trauma](#) if required
- sponsor eligible family members for permanent residence through the family visa stream
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- if eligible [become an Australian citizen](#)
- if you are eligible attend [English language classes for free](#)

### You must

- be in Australia at time of application lodgement
- be in Australia at time of visa grant
- meet the visa requirements including health, character and security



## ASRC Fact Sheet

The Government has now announced a plan to make Temporary Protection visa (TPV) (subclass 785) and Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) (subclass 790) holders eligible to apply for a permanent **Resolution of Status (RoS) (subclass 851) visa**, and to convert applications for TPV/SHEVs to applications for RoS visas. [Read the FACT SHEET in full...here.](#)

Organisations funded to assist with RoS visa applications are as follows:

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	Legal Aid ACT	<a href="http://www.legalaidact.org.au">www.legalaidact.org.au</a>
New South Wales (NSW)	Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC) on referral from RACS NSW	<a href="http://www.racs.org.au">www.racs.org.au</a> <a href="http://www.iarc.gov.au">www.iarc.gov.au</a>
Northern Territory (NT)	Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission	<a href="http://www.legalaid.nt.gov.au">www.legalaid.nt.gov.au</a>
Queensland (QLD)	Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS)	<a href="http://www.rails.org.au">www.rails.org.au</a>
South Australia (SA)	Legal Services Commission of SA	<a href="http://www.lsc.sa.gov.au">www.lsc.sa.gov.au</a>
Tasmania (TAS)	Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service	<a href="http://www.trls.org.au">www.trls.org.au</a>
Victoria (VIC)	Refugee Legal	<a href="http://www.refugeelegal.org.au">www.refugeelegal.org.au</a>
Western Australia (WA)	Circle Green Community Legal	<a href="http://www.circlegreen.org.au">www.circlegreen.org.au</a>

### Refugee Council of Australia response

Those who already have a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) will be able to apply for a permanent Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa. Current applications to renew expired TPVs or SHEVs will automatically be converted to ROS visa applications. Those still waiting for a decision will be granted a RoS Visa once their need for refugee protection is determined.

Specialist refugee legal centres will be funded to provide free assistance to those who are eligible to apply for the permanent Resolution of Status Visa. There is no application fee for this visa and there is no need for applicants to pay for private migration advice. [Read more...here](#)

## Refugee Legal:

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION: CONVERSION OF TPVs/SHEVs TO A PERMANENT VISA

#### Key changes

The Federal Government has announced that from 14 February 2023 people who currently hold, previously held or have applied for a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) may be eligible for a permanent Resolution of Status Visa (RoS visa).

People granted a permanent RoS visa will have the same rights and benefits as all permanent residents, including access to family reunion.

It is essential that people seek legal assistance in relation to their rights to the RoS visa.

This information sheet explains:

- How you can be granted a permanent RoS visa; AND
- How you can get free legal help.

[Read the one-page FACT SHEET in full...here](#)

## MIGRATION AMENDMENT (EVACUATION TO SAFETY) BILL 2023



**When Parliament returned after the summer break, Greens Senator Nick McKim introduced a Private Members' Bill aimed at getting refugees still stranded in PNG and Nauru to mainland Australia.**

OUTLINE (Source: [APH website](#))

This Bill will compel the Government to offer transfer to Australia to all persons subject to offshore processing still in PNG or Nauru who are not subject to an adverse security assessment by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) under the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979.

Persons accepting the Government's offer will be transferred to Australia where they will remain until they are provided with a durable third-country solution with a state party to the United Nations' 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

All persons accepting the Government's offer will automatically be placed into community detention.

This Bill will compel the Government to make offers of transfer to all eligible persons within one month of the commencement of the Bill.

Any person who receives an offer under the provisions of this Bill is able to reject the offer.

People transferred to Australia under the provisions of this Bill will remain in Australia with the temporary purpose of securing a durable solution to their displacement.

Existing powers within the Migration Act 1958 regarding the taking of unauthorised maritime arrivals to a regional processing country do not apply to persons transferred to Australia under the provisions of this Bill.

- Introduced and read a first time (07/02/2023)
- Referred to Committee (09/02/2023): Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
- G4R will make a submission to the Committee. Deadline for submissions is 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- [Report due 07/03/2023](#)

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**PALM SUNDAY RALLIES AROUND THE NATION 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2023**

**PLAN TO JOIN A RALLY HAPPENING NEAR YOU**

**RALLYING POINTS WILL BE POSTED ON REFUGEE SUPPORT WEBSITES**



# Grandmothers for Refugees Privacy Policy

December 2022

**Grandmothers for Refugees** is a national movement of like-minded individuals who collaborate to advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia. Find out more by visiting [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

We invite Grandmothers and Friends of Grandmothers to join our movement by providing us with limited personal information.

The information we collect is set out on our website [JOIN US — GRANDMOTHERS FOR REFUGEES](#) and is submitted via direct email to us. It is transferred to a “Mistress List” held internally and accessible only to members of the executive group.

## What we do with your information

- ✓ Once we transfer the information you supply to a “Mistress List”, it is held internally, and the List is accessible only to members of the executive group.
- ✓ We provide your submitted information to the group co-ordinator of the federal electorate in which you live. This is only for the purposes of local contact and engagement. Local group, committee and working group members may choose to share personal contact details among themselves.
- ✓ We blind copy your email address when sending regular member/supporter newsletters.
- ✓ We blind copy your email address if sending information alerts about events and issues of direct relevance to the situation of refugees and people seeking asylum.
- ✓ We may use your contact details at your request and with your approval to create Chat groups from time to time for project or working group purposes.
- ✓ If you donate to support our work, any information to effect an electronic funds transfer to our account is held within the banking system and not transferred to any database held by us.
- ✓ Our website uses Squarespace Services and as such it is important to also view their Privacy Policy as it relates to the web technologies, applications, and services.

<https://www.squarespace.com/privacy-new>

## What we do not do with your information

- ☒ We do not collect your information via web form or similar external system capable of holding your data.
- ☒ We do not use external subscriber systems to communicate with members.
- ☒ We do not charge membership fees, ask for, or hold banking information about you.
- ☒ We do not share your information with any agency, marketing organisation or individual unless requested or agreed by you.
- ☒ We do not use your information to promote events of a general nature.

## Images

The purpose of our website is to provide you with information and raise public awareness of issues relating to refugees and people seeking asylum. As such, we include images of members engaged in relevant activities. We may name individuals in these images with their approval which may be provided formally or informally.

## Compliance

We aim to comply at all times with Australia’s national privacy Act [The Privacy Act - Home](#) ([oaic.gov.au](http://oaic.gov.au))

## Complaints or concerns

If you have any complaint or concerns about the application of this policy, please contact us directly at [info@grandmothersforrefugees.org](mailto:info@grandmothersforrefugees.org)  
ends

## UPCOMING EVENT - for WA MEMBERS

CARAD (Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees Inc) provides emergency and financial relief for people seeking asylum who have been denied government supports or the right to work.

[www.carad.org.au](http://www.carad.org.au)



# Concert for CARAD

SUNDAY March 26<sup>th</sup> AT 2:00 PM

WESLEY UNITING CHURCH crn. William & Hay Streets, Perth.

**JIMJAM** - versatile, multi-instrumental vocal harmony trio.

**GRAND HANDZ PIANO DUO** - four hands, one piano.

**BERNARD CARNEY, OAM** – singer, songwriter, choir director

**WA CLASSICAL GUITAR ORCHESTRA**

Plus: short PowerPoint presentation of detainee and artist Naser Moradi's artwork

Tickets \$40 Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/CEKVD>

Jointly presented by: Western Suburbs Do Gooders & Grandmothers for Refugees



## Recent growth prompts change

The integration of Grandmothers for Refugees NSW into the national framework has meant some changes in membership of our key information sharing and strategic planning bodies.

NSW members Wendy Power and Helen Snowden have committed to maintaining the website **daily news blog**. They do a great job each morning by pulling together the latest updates. Do check it out on the Front Page of our website. [www.grandmothersforrefugees.org](http://www.grandmothersforrefugees.org)

The **Electoral Representative Committee (ERC)** has expanded with two NSW groups taking up the standing invitation to every active electorate to be represented at the monthly zoom meetings.

The **Executive Group** has also expanded with Gael Walker, previously a member of the NSW Strategy Group, joining us to bring a “north of the Murray” perspective to our considerations.

All are very, very welcome.

## And finally...

The Executive very sadly shares the news that Jo Shankland, Co-ordinator for the Chisholm Electorate (VIC), has died after a very difficult year of ill health. We send our best wishes to Mano, Catherine and all Jo's friends and family.

With best wishes,

**Jean, Margaret, Marita, Janet, Virginia and Gael**