



1138-1645



THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION  
AND BORDER PROTECTION

Ref No: MC16-007197

Dr Dennis Jensen MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

*Late  
Submitted  
over a month  
late!*

*Dennis,*  
Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2015 enclosing Petition Number 1138/1645, presented by the Federal Member for McMillan, Mr Russell Broadbent MP, concerning the Australian Government's asylum seeker policies.

The petition requested an increase in Australia's refugee intake; the closure of regional processing centres (RPCs) and bringing transierees to Australia for processing and settlement; and the timely processing of protection claims.

*You need to address ALL requests on the petition.*

Australia works closely with the international community and is an active partner in internationally coordinated resettlement efforts to respond to refugee situations. Fewer than 30 countries worldwide offer resettlement places each year. Of this number, only 10 countries have established annual resettlement programmes that resettle 500 or more refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Australia consistently ranks among the top three of these countries, along with the United States and Canada.

*try begrudging, unwilling crises.*

On 5 December 2014, the Government made a commitment to increase the size of the Humanitarian Programme over the next four financial years, from the current number of 13,750 places up to 18,750 places by 2018-19. This will allow 7,500 more people to be resettled in Australia over this period. This intake will represent the largest offshore humanitarian intake in more than 30 years.

As you would be aware, the Government has committed to resettling an additional 12,000 people who have been displaced by conflicts in Syria and Iraq. The first families arrived in Australia in November 2015. These places are in addition to the existing Humanitarian Programme.

*? Is this the right word?*

*This is not a valid argument. Less than 4000 people have been resettled in over a year.*

*This would be more credible if you weren't just comparing us in this particular category.*

*Misleading. Break it down. Only 44% of these places are for the refugees the petition referred to.*

*be sure to check over the numbers on your own website!*

this argument is illogical - I don't understand what you're trying to say here

is the 'product' freedom? Are you saying that by denying freedom you are denying their product?

To say 'vulnerable' implies that you care, this is a contradiction

The Government remains committed to the regional processing and resettlement arrangements in place in Nauru and Papua New Guinea (PNG). These measures are intended to deny people smugglers a product to sell to often vulnerable people and to restore integrity to the migration programme. All arrivals from 1 January 2014 will be transferred to either the Manus or Nauru RPCs. Anyone who comes to Australia illegally by boat will not be eligible for permanent residency in Australia.

Misused of the word. For it to be illegal, they have to have done s.t. wrong

Nauru and PNG are both parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (the Refugees Convention), and their Governments are processing protection claims and making refugee status determinations. Transferees to PNG found to be refugees will be settled in PNG. Transferees to Nauru found to be refugees will be permitted to remain in Nauru for up to ten years, pending resettlement in Cambodia or any other participating third country. Transferees found not to be refugees are expected to return to their country of origin or to a third country where they have the right to reside.

Fix this paragraph - it sounds like you're avoiding any responsibility

This is better but there's not enough evidence here to back up this argument and build the reader's trust.

The Australian Government is assisting the respective Governments of Nauru and PNG to provide settlement services to meet the initial needs of these refugees. In PNG, refugees are provided with initial services, such as language instruction and cultural orientation at an open facility at East Lorengau in Manus Province. In Nauru, refugee settlement support services include: assisting refugees to access complementary community services, including health and mental health support; promoting independence and self-agency, cultural orientation; support with income; if eligible: vocational and language training; providing early maternal, child and youth specific support services; and linking to accommodation, education and employment opportunities. The intention is to have refugees established and self-sufficient within 12 months. Many adult refugees are now in either full or part-time employment.

be more specific. What do you mean by this?

Be specific. This could mean 5 out of 100.

How so? Elaborate. see my notes at end. wrong word

The Australian Government views immigration detention as an essential component of strong border control. Immigration detention supports Australia's well-managed migration system and is used to identify individuals and manage potential risks to the Australian community, including national security, health and character risks.

Appeal to fear is a clever persuasive device, however there's too much hypebole in this argument

contradictory

Detention is not limited by a set timeframe but is dependent upon a number of factors, including identity determination, developments in country information and the complexity of processing due to individual circumstances relating to health, character or security matters. Detention that is indefinite or arbitrary is not acceptable.

too vague - needs examples - it's like you're trying to hide something or you're not sure what you're talking about.

All persons in immigration detention are subject to regular review, both from within the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and by external agencies.

examples.

Resolving the immigration status of the illegal maritime arrival (iMA) legacy caseload of almost 30,000 people in Australia who arrived under the former government is expected to take several years.

I don't understand this. You are the former gov. This is your 2nd term.

what does this mean??? this has nothing to do with refugees - stay on topic

Try not to use an acronym when you're talking about people

The Government has reduced the IMA detention population by approximately 90 per cent by placing eligible IMAs in the community on bridging visas or in community detention (that is, requiring IMAs to reside at a specified address and be subject to certain reporting conditions) while they await the resolution of their status. Those who are granted bridging visas will, in most cases, have permission to work.

adding a timeframe will help this paragraph

The Fast Track Assessment process was a pre-election commitment made by the Government. This new process is designed to allow protection claims to be assessed by the Department more efficiently by introducing a new review pathway and shorter timeframes to respond to requests for additional information and adverse information. This new process provides for a more robust approach to protection assessments and was a key element of the border protection strategy to combat people smuggling and discourage people from making dangerous boat voyages to Australia.

again, vague

again - you need evidence - a comparison otherwise this paragraph sounds like a lot of empty words and no action

IMAs who arrived on or after 13 August 2012 but before 1 January 2014, who have not been transferred to Nauru or PNG, will be assessed in Australia under the Fast Track Assessment Process. Fast Track applicants who have been found to engage Australia's protection obligations and meet all other criteria (such as health, security, character and identity requirements) will be eligible for a Temporary Protection visa or a Safe Haven Protection visa.

Further information on the Fast Track Assessment Process can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.ima.border.gov.au/Applying-for-a-protection-visa/Fast-Track-Assessment-process/>.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Signature??

2/10% (F) / 20

\* Please come and see me or another teacher so that we can help get you back on track.

PETER DUTTON 15/03/16 - received Nov 2016.

Mr Dutton, you have made an effort to check over your spelling + punctuation. You need to focus on keeping your arguments logical and backing up your ideas with real evidence.

Don't forget to answer the entire petition! You missed the last request: "Treat every refugee and every asylum seeker as you would want a citizen of Australia to be treated if they were in the same situation." A reflection on this request and some critical thinking would have awarded you a few marks - You have failed to grasp that this was the crux of the petition and that it was centred around the theme of compassion.

\* You mention detention as an "essential component." A way to strengthen your argument here would be to have a rebuttal. You could mention the opposing arguments about the cost of immigration detention: \$400K - offshore (per detainee, per year) + \$239K - onshore (per detainee, per year), not to mention the costs regarding humanity, Australia's reputation, etc... and then try to defend or rebute this.

honestly I'm not sure you ever can.

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House the generosity of the people of Australia. We are a nation that values mateship and giving people a fair go no matter where they are from. It makes us feel helpless to think that there are people out there who have to flee their homes and are often torn apart from their families. It makes us feel helpless because we are unable to do our bit to welcome asylum seekers and refugees. We want to build positive relationships with asylum seekers who will enrich our diverse culture, our sense of solidarity and assist our economy's growth.

We therefore ask the House to:

- increase the number of refugees to be accepted for resettlement
- abolish closed detention centres and resettle those living there in Australia. As an alternative, establish reception centres on the mainland to allow us to provide support to the most vulnerable
- process people in a timely and humane way no matter how they arrive and ensure that there is a fair and adequate appeal system
- treat every refugee and every asylum seeker as you would want a citizen of Australia to be treated if they were in the same situation

**PRINCIPAL PETITIONER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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