

Subject: Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment
Date: Thursday, 23 October 2014 5:45:37 PM

Dear Committee members

I am writing to express my grave concern about an amendment proposed to the above mentioned legislation.

The potential reintroduction of Temporary Protection Visas can only be a backward step, causing continued trauma and despair to people who have been found to be genuine refugees. TPVs indicate a clear lack of regard for our fellow human beings, and provide Australia with an opportunity to shirk its international duties towards refugees.

While fast tracking applications for refugee status may seem sound, it undermines refugees' rights to a fair hearing and to appropriate support, be that legal, linguistic or cultural.

Capping the number of permanent protection visas allows the minister of immigration to have concentrated power, bypassing a balanced and nuanced approach which would be more likely to factor in the multiple complexities of making such decisions.

The existing legislation on this matter is perfectly adequate to determine matters regarding refugees and asylum seekers.

Please be mindful that our country is a successful, multicultural society, built on the strength of various waves of migration and refugees over the decades. Just as our country has a lot to offer refugees, these potential citizens have a huge amount to offer Australia and its people.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Green