

Sirs,

I wish to make my position clear. Although it would be great to stop the Smugglers, that is a problem that cannot be solved here. We need to invest more money to 'pay' the Indonesian Customs and Border Protection personnel. They are obviously in the pay of these Smugglers so that they turn a blind eye. We should pay more; it would be much cheaper.

Surely no boat can leave Indonesia without authorities knowing about it and turning a blind eye. Stop the boats and the smugglers and you solve the problem. The present detention and arrangements with Malaysia are really a disgrace to the Australian people and having a fair go for everyone.

It might be an idea to have our Patrols sit off the Indonesian coast; in contact with Australian Coastwatchers secreted in Indonesia; then when outside their territorial waters and arranging for the Indonesian Government to come and tow them back. We could legally pay the Indonesian Government for such co-operation.

The present arrangements and all detention, except in a few cases are really so un-Australian and a disgrace to many of us who have a Christian outlook, and see the need for Grace and Compassion. Please take care of all children and help these folk who are already here, and stop the boats as they leave Indonesia.

Many thanks,

Martin Clementson (Aston Electorate)

12 August 2011,