

To:

Prime Minister Scott Morrison
Senator Anne Ruston, Minister for Families and Social Services
Greg Hunt, Minister for Health
Alan Tudge, Action Minister for Immigration
Christian Porter, Attorney General, Minister for Industrial Relations
Senator Kristina Keneally, Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship
Bill Shorten, Shadow Minister for Government Services
Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

RE: Petition with 20,528 signatories to include all people seeking asylum and refugees, no matter visa status in Job Keeper, Job Seeker and Medicare in Safety Net package for COVID-19 crisis

I the undersigned call on you and your government to urgently introduce an emergency plan to give all people and families seeking asylum inclusive access to:

- Medicare and Telehealth services
- Job Keeper wage subsidy (include casual workers on bridging or temporary protection and SHEV visas).
- Job Seeker income support payments with standard eligibility criteria
- Social services including for family violence
- Any further COVID-19 crisis support services

31,000 women, men and children are on temporary and bridging visas or without a visa. Thousands are excluded from any safety net of Medicare and Centrelink.

1,200 people were transferred to Australia for medical care over the past three years and many live without basic support.

Up to 7,000 people seeking asylum, many of whom are children, are cut off from their only safety net of Status Resolution Support Services, and live without income support or medical care.

Thousands of people seeking asylum who are in casual, insecure or exploitative work are losing work hours due to the crisis.

Parents have no support to feed and help families, elderly and children survive COVID-19.

Tens of thousands of people seeking asylum and refugees rely on charity from service organisations and the good will of Australians for rent, food and healthcare to survive.

Organisations and communities are already stretched, and will be overwhelmed in the coming weeks and months due to COVID-19 economic and health impacts.

Only you and your government can now protect vulnerable people from extreme hardship, hunger, COVID-19 infection, transmission and loss of life.

I look forward to your responsive action to protect these most vulnerable people and families in Australia.

Yours in hope,

See petition signatures attached