

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

This petition of

Rural Australians for Refugees Queanbeyan (RARQ) and other concerned citizens

draws to the attention of the House:

The unprecedented numbers worldwide of refugees escaping violence, intimidation and poverty. The unacceptable conditions for asylum seekers and refugees in the Manus Island and Nauru detention centres where various incidents have demonstrated that the safety and wellbeing of people held cannot be guaranteed.

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