

**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

Petition No: 1138 / 16 45