

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

This petition of the Caloundra Catholic Church Social Justice Network and supporters

draws to the attention of the House:

**the appalling, inhumane treatment** to which those seeking asylum in Australia are subjected **and**, consequently, **the Australian Government's lack of respect** for the human rights of asylum seekers, for international law and for the rights and well-being of neighbouring countries. Examples of these inhumane policies and practices are the towing asylum seeker boats back to neighbouring countries; offshore detention; long term detention, detention of children; returning asylum seekers to countries with a bad human rights record; accepting security reports from such countries; and providing such countries with patrol boats to return asylum seekers fleeing from persecution. Humane treatment would include onshore processing; giving asylum seekers legal rights; allowing them to apply for Permanent Protection here and for family reunification; allowing them to work and to attend Australian educational institutions; allowing them access to full Centrelink payments and support; and substantially increasing Australia's immigration intake so that Australia takes its fair share of refugees, commensurate with Australia being one of the world's most prosperous countries.

We therefore ask the House, **as a matter of extreme urgency**, to introduce asylum seeker policies and practices that are open and accountable, humane, compassionate, ethical, respectful of human rights, including the rights of children, respectful of international law, and considerate of the rights and well-being of neighbouring countries.