

I have mixed feelings about people coming in boats to our shores looking for a better life. I feel that it is not the way to come here and then be looked after by the tax paying public. A better way must be found. I particularly do not like the fact that our property is destroyed in protest and required to be rebuilt at more cost to us. Given these recent events I question why these people are taking advantage of us and ask whether their new circumstances can be worse than the life left behind. I feel that I would not be treated as well in many other countries if the roles were reversed. In fact, I'm sure the consequences for such action as we have seen lately, would be very unpleasant.

Having said that, there is no way I know what life was like for the asylum seekers in their own country. I only know that to risk your life in a shoddy boat full of people, have no privacy or dignity on the journey and pay for the discomfort, requires commitment and a need for change. It has to take a very strong motivation to make the dangerous journey.

What I do know is, that our Government is making a mess of the situation from start to finish and achieving nothing of any good. Stupid decisions based on a lack of common sense and huge amounts of money being wasted for no decent end result.

In summary, I believe that asylum seekers/refugees should be landed on Australian soil; processed quickly; assimilated into our society and the Australian way of life and become contributing citizens.

Stop offshore centres as we have plenty of space where families could live on commune type facilities growing food and producing goods until ready to be released. Activity and a sense of self worth should replace mental health and disharmony issues. For any one who takes advantage of our good nature to the detriment of Australia, expatriate them back to the place they left behind, and quickly.