

Dear Sir,

I am appalled that Australia is going down this path. Our refugee laws should not be rewritten to allow for persecuted people's applications for protection to be rejected where it is in 'our national interest' to do so.

Surely as a country with "values" we cannot sit back whilst people are locked up on offshore islands with no access to legal help for years at a time.

This new legislation will go against the refugee convention that we are a signatory to.

As a so called "civilized" nation, we should be perfectly capable of dealing with a relatively small number of refugees in a humane fashion without excising land and changing our policy.

Of the Tampa refugees who Howard said would never set foot on our land, I believe that all but a handful were judged to be genuine refugees and were resettled in NZ and Australia. Once again we are seeing scaremongering from our government and I for one am ashamed to hold my head up and call myself Australian.

Sue Cleveland

Brookfield Qld