



Hello Grandmothers and Friends of Grandmothers,

Thank you for the feedback on our [Campaign Newsletter ONE](#). Please continue to let us know how you have been using the campaign news and information to generate ideas within your group and actions in your electorate.

In this edition we share news from the field, summarise the refugee policies of the two major parties, and send a reminder that there is still much to do and that your



presence at this year's Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees is as important as ever.

The **Wills Electoral Group** members are keeping up the effort they have maintained for three years, standing on the corner of Sydney Rd. and Bell St., Coburg each Tuesday from 3.30 to 4.30pm. "We have noticed lately an increase in toots of support from cars and words of appreciation from passers-by as they hurry to catch their buses and trams."

From the Bendigo Group....

“Each child’s wellbeing is at the centre of our thinking.

GADRC engages with communities, advocates and irritates to build awareness.”



We engage with community to:

- Strengthen community awareness and support for our demands on parliament
- Help build strong safe communities to support development and integration

Our demands on the 46th Parliament:

1. End all forms of detention for refugee children.
2. End refugee family separation.
3. Get all refugees off Manus and Nauru to safe settlement.
4. Ensure refugee children and their families seeking asylum are held no longer than 72 hours to enable basic identity and health checks.

Our advocacy work targets political candidates, policies and actions:

- We write letters
- Use media
- Rally
- Share information
- Be a visible purple public presence
- Think and act nationally and locally

.....
Spotted in a social media post....



Grandmothers against Detention of Refugee Children



Posted by Helen Starr
28 February at 1:56 pm · 🌐

Seen in a garden in Northcote, in Melbourne. Some people never thought they'd see the day but here it is. We believe this is the work of the Cooper Electorate Group, Grandmothers Against Detention oh Refugee Children. A sad note, the damage done is acknowledged of years of cruelty and rejection of the care children should have.



Staying informed

Although the date of the election is yet to be formally set, the two major parties are effectively in campaign mode. So it is timely to pay attention to the refugee policy each will take to the voters. Here are both Liberal and Labor policies, edited for relevance and to remove overt political rhetoric. The full policies may be read online at the addresses provided below.

Liberal Party Policy on Refugees	Labor's Policy on asylum seekers
<p>STOPPING THE BOATS We have taken back control of our borders from the people smugglers. The Liberal and Nationals Government has ended Labor's border chaos and restored strong border protection policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn-backs where it is safe to do so. • Offshore processing. • Temporary Protection Visas. <p>Our strong border protection policies mean we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopped deaths at sea. • Closed 19 detention centres. • Removed all children from detention. <p>Having restored integrity to our immigration system, we are in a position to increase Australia's generous humanitarian program.</p>	<p>Labor's policy on asylum seekers is clear – we will never let the people smugglers back in business...</p> <p>Labor believes in strong borders, offshore processing, regional resettlement, and turnbacks when safe to do so... This is the policy Labor took to the last Federal Election and remains our policy.</p> <p>Labor's resolve on this issue is absolute – the way to Australia through irregular means by boat is closed, and it will remain so under Labor.</p> <p>Manus Island and Nauru were set up as temporary regional processing centres but have become places of indefinite detention because</p>

This has increased from 13,750 refugees in 2013-14 to 18,750 in 2018-19. Australia has also provided a generous humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis, through the additional intake of 12,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and Iraq. In addition, the government is working with the United States to resettle people off Manus and Nauru. Already 439 people have been resettled in the United States. Since this Government was elected, **33 boats have been intercepted**. The most recent was in June 2018.

CANCELLING VISAS OF CRIMINALS

CANCELLING CITIZENSHIP FOR TERRORIST CONDUCT (DUAL NATIONALS)

STOPPING DRUGS AT THE BORDER

RESETTLING PEOPLE ON MANUS AND NAURU

The Government has consistently said that people subject to regional processing arrangements will not be resettled in Australia. This will not change... Having stopped the boats, we've been able to close 19 detention centres and get children out of detention... There are no children on Manus Island, only single men (at least 130 of whom have been found not to be refugees). On Nauru, there are family groups, single adult men and women. Since 2015, no-one at Nauru has been in detention – they live freely like Nauruans do. However, we are ... committed to third country resettlement options for people found to be refugees. Currently, refugees in Nauru can apply to resettle in Cambodia and the United States... Refugees in Papua New Guinea can apply to resettle in the United States or in PNG. If asylum seekers, refugees and non-refugees on Nauru or in PNG decide to return home voluntarily, assistance is available to help, including booking and paying for travel. Where medically necessary, people have been brought to Australia for treatment.

Information current as at January 2019

Downloaded 10 March 2019

<https://www.liberal.org.au/our-plan/border-protection>

of the out-of-touch Liberal Government's failure to negotiate other third country resettlement options.

... bringing people from offshore regional processing centres to Australia is not an option....

Much more needs to be done to resettle eligible refugees in other third countries.

Labor has called on the Liberal Government to accept New Zealand's offer to resettle eligible refugees from Manus and Nauru and negotiate conditions similar to the US refugee resettlement agreement...

Labor's resolve to prevent deaths at sea is matched by a commitment to a humane and compassionate approach to asylum seekers which enables refugees to progress their claims safely and securely.

This is why Labor took commitments to the last Federal Election including:

- Increasing Australia's annual humanitarian intake of refugees to 27,000 by 2025 to address the global humanitarian crisis;
- Providing \$450 million in funding over three years to support the important work of the UNHCR both globally and in South East Asia and the Pacific;
- Appointing an independent children's advocate to represent the interests of children seeking asylum and legislating to impose mandatory reporting of child abuse;
- Reintroducing the '90 day rule' into the Migration Act, in addition to references to the UN Refugees Convention;
- Reinstating access to the Refugee Review Tribunal and abolish the IAA established by the Abbott Government; and
- Abolishing Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) which keep people in a permanent state of limbo and placing those found to be genuine refugees on permanent protection visas.

Downloaded 10 March 2019

<https://www.alp.org.au/asylumseekers>

Remember
the Palm Sunday Rally and

Walk for Justice for Refugees

14 April 2019, 2pm

State Library, Swanston St

**Help create the purple presence of
Grandmothers and FROGs**

- Show them we (still) care –



Watch for the GADRC Campaign Newsletter issued fortnightly to your email inbox.