

Issue for November 2022:

Immigration Detention

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Available to download at - <https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>

Also available to download at - <https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/rar-groups/online-group/>



Included in this kit is the information you need to create your own letters or use the proformas

- Guide and Background notes prepared by ARAN's Letter Writing Network.
- 2 proforma letters that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email.
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators

Personalised letters are best –

- You might like to use the **AIDA** principle
 - **A - Attention** - grab the recipient's attention. Say something positive about the reader that is directed towards the focus of your letter. Stimulate the recipient's curiosity
 - **I - Interest & Information** - encourage the recipient to read on.
 - **D - Desire** - Getting the reader to want to do what you are seeking - in their interest to do so.
 - **A - Action** - inform the reader of the action you want them to take.

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Regards,  
The ARAN Letter Writing Network  
[austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION - IMMIGRATION DETENTION

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### Why this issue is important

It was recently [reported by the Guardian](#) that Immigration Minister Giles “is investigating alternatives to immigration detention, and considering the creation of a review panel to help clear the “intractable” caseload of people held for long periods.”

We are suggesting it is timely to write to the Minister to express support for significantly reducing the use of immigration detention.

- The mandatory, indefinite and arbitrary nature of Australia’s immigration detention regime has led to the mass ‘warehousing’ of people in immigration detention facilities, and for increasingly longer periods of time.
- The Department of Home Affairs most recent statistics (April 2022) show that there were 1414 people being held in Immigration detention. Of those, 202 are people who arrived by boat seeking asylum. The other people in immigration detention have had their visas cancelled for various reasons; many of those are awaiting deportation.
- The harsh, neglectful conditions of long-term immigration detention have proven to be unsafe for detainees, resulting in many incidents of serious injury, illness and avoidable death.
- Despite years of evidence and multiple inquiries into conditions in Australia’s immigration detention facilities, including critique from the United Nations, there continue to be grave concerns about the denial of human rights to detainees.
- Legislative and systemic change is necessary. The Albanese Government needs to align practice with the policy platform, and ensure that immigration detention is only used as a last resort, and for minimum periods

### Main areas of concern about Australia’s immigration detention facilities

- Extensive use of arbitrary detention as the first resort in immigration matters
- The length of stay in detention, which has blown out to an average of 726 days
- The sub-standard conditions in detention facilities, such as: serious overcrowding, unsafe conditions, inadequate health care: both physical and mental
- The punitive nature of immigration detention, and prison-like environment
- The use of force, use of restraints, and solitary confinement
- Restrictive visiting regulations, denying detainees the right to maintain contact with family and other supports
- Incidents of assault, including sexual assault, within detention facilities
- The rate of self-harm and suicide among detainees

### Choose 2 or 3 dot points to use in your letter - Paraphrase these using your own words.

- The re- introduction of ‘humane and risk-based detention policies’ as foreshadowed by Minister Giles would help bring Australia into line with its international obligations and recognised best practice in immigration detention.
- Immigration detention is meant to be ‘administrative’, for the purpose of resolving visa status. Arbitrary, indefinite detention, such as occurs in Australia, is considered unlawful under international human rights law.
- The basic principles of a risk-based approach to immigration detention as outlined in the ALP National Policy Platform are:
  - *Detention that is indefinite or otherwise arbitrary is not acceptable and the length and conditions of detention, including the appropriateness of both the accommodation and the services provided, will be subject to regular review;*
  - *Detention will occur in a government-run immigration detention centre appropriately located close to services and relevant support and is only to be used as a last resort and for the shortest practicable time;*

- *People in detention will be treated fairly and reasonably within the law;*
  - *People in detention will be provided an appropriate standard of care including the provision of health, mental health and education services a standard consistent with that afforded to the Australian community; and*
  - *Conditions of detention will ensure the inherent dignity and safety of the human person.*
- The indefinite nature of detention, along with the seriously sub-standard conditions of detention facilities, have caused grave damage to many people over many years.
  - There are many viable alternatives to immigration detention which were successfully used in Australia for many decades, and are used in many other countries today.
  - In cases where detention is deemed necessary and justified, it should be for the shortest time possible, and in conditions which accord with international legal and human rights standards.

## Sources

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/immigration-detention-statistics-30-april-2022.pdf>

<https://www.alp.org.au/about/national-platform>

<https://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/publication/immigration-detention>

<https://www.asyluminsight.com/people-in-onshore-and-offshore-detention>

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/asylum-seekers-and-refugees/publications/inspections-australias-immigration-detention>

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/asylum-seekers-and-refugees/publications>

[https://jss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Onshore-Detention-paper\\_FINAL\\_July2019-002.pdf](https://jss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Onshore-Detention-paper_FINAL_July2019-002.pdf)

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/sep/25/refugee-advocates-encouraged-as-albanese-government-considers-ways-to-reduce-immigration-detention-backlog>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2022/oct/19/let-the-uns-light-of-scrutiny-shine-on-australias-prisons-and-detention-regimes>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/sep/04/only-a-matter-of-time-before-someone-is-killed-in-australian-immigration-detention-detainees-say>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2021/may/16/indefinite-detention-of-refugees-is-unlawful-under-international-law-but-australia-has-quietly-made-it-legal>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/series/nauru-files>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/feb/16/australia-holding-people-in-immigration-detention-for-record-689-days-on-average-report-finds>

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## Key Requests

- Adoption of humane and risk-based approach to immigration detention, based on the principle that people seeking protection who pose no risk should be supported to live in the community until their visa status can be finalised and durable settlement solutions are found.
- The decision to detain should be a last resort, and based on the circumstances of the individual, with legislated timeframes and subject to regular review.
- The Albanese government immediately commission a review of ‘security management’ practices in immigration detention such as the use of restraints, solitary confinement, and the use of force.
- No children should be held in detention.

## Addresses for your letters:

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### 1. The Prime Minister

Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

You cannot email the PM. Use the following link to the PM's Contact Form.

<https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

### 2. Clare O'Neil, Minister for Home Affairs

The Hon Clare O'Neil  
Minister for Home Affairs  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [Clare.Oneil.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Clare.Oneil.MP@aph.gov.au)

Or use the Contact Form:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Contact\\_Senator\\_or\\_Member?MPID=140590](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=140590)

### 3. Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services & Multicultural Affairs

The Hon Andrew Giles,  
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services & Multicultural Affairs  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [Andrew.Giles.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Giles.MP@aph.gov.au)

Or use the following link to the Contact Form:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Contact\\_Senator\\_or\\_Member?MPID=243609](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=243609)

## You may also like to send a copy of your email to:

- Your local MP - [https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members)
- Greens Senator Nick McKim [senator.mckim@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckim@aph.gov.au)

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### Canberra Postal Address for all Senators

PO Box 6100  
Senate,  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### Canberra Postal Address for all MPs

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

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Find electorate postal and email addresses for your local MP:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/senators\\_and\\_members/members](https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/members)

Email addresses for MPs and Senators - <https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>

Email addresses for all Senators are on the next page

You may also send a copy of your letter to Senators in your state:

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**EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR ALL SENATORS - UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Email addresses for all **ACT** senators - ready to copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**

[senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au); [Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au)

**Email addresses for all **NSW** senators - ready to copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**

[senator.ayres@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ayres@aph.gov.au); [senator.bragg@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.bragg@aph.gov.au); [senator.cadell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cadell@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.davey@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.davey@aph.gov.au); [senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au); [senator.hughes@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hughes@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au); [senator.molan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.molan@aph.gov.au); [senator.oneill@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.oneill@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.payne@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.payne@aph.gov.au); ; [senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au); [senator.shoebridge@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.shoebridge@aph.gov.au)

**Email addresses for all **NT** senators - ready to copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**

[Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au); [senator.nampijinpaprice@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.nampijinpaprice@aph.gov.au)

**Email addresses for all **Queensland** senators - ready to copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**

[senator.canavan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.canavan@aph.gov.au); [senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au); [senator.green@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.green@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.hanson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hanson@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.rennick@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.rennick@aph.gov.au); [senator.roberts@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.roberts@aph.gov.au); [senator.scarr@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.scarr@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.stoker@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.stoker@aph.gov.au); [senator.waters@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.waters@aph.gov.au); [senator.watt@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.watt@aph.gov.au);

**Email addresses for all **SA** senators - ready to copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**

[senator.antic@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.antic@aph.gov.au); [senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au); [senator.farrell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.farrell@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au); [senator.grogan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.grogan@aph.gov.au); [senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.liddle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.liddle@aph.gov.au); [senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au); [senator.pocock@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.pocock@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.ruston@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ruston@aph.gov.au); [senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au); [senator.wong@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.wong@aph.gov.au);

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[senator.askew@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.askew@aph.gov.au); [senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au); [senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.chandler@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chandler@aph.gov.au); [senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au); [senator.duniam@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.duniam@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.lambie@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lambie@aph.gov.au); [senator.mckim@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckim@aph.gov.au); [senator.polley@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.polley@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.tyrrell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.tyrrell@aph.gov.au); [senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au); [senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au);

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[senator.babet@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.babet@aph.gov.au); [senator.ciccione@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ciccione@aph.gov.au); [senator.henderson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.henderson@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.hume@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hume@aph.gov.au); [senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au); [senator.paterson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.paterson@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.rice@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.rice@aph.gov.au); [senator.stewart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.stewart@aph.gov.au); [senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.van@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.van@aph.gov.au); [senator.walsh@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.walsh@aph.gov.au); [senator.white@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.white@aph.gov.au)

**Email addresses for all **WA** senators - ready to copy and paste into “TO” section of your email:**

[senator.brockman@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.brockman@aph.gov.au); [senator.cash@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cash@aph.gov.au); [senator.cox@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cox@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.dodson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.dodson@aph.gov.au); [senator.lines@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lines@aph.gov.au); [senator.matt.o'sullivan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.matt.o'sullivan@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.pratt@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.pratt@aph.gov.au); [senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au); [senator.small@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.small@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.smith@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.smith@aph.gov.au); [senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au); [senator.sterle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sterle@aph.gov.au)

**NOTE: If you are sending an email be sure to include your NAME and ADDRESS**

**Email addresses for MPs and Senators -**

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members)

The Subject line of your email could be - **CALL TO ACTION** ... .. (insert the issue)

## Sample Letter - Immigration Detention

The Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services & Multicultural Affairs

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The Hon Andrew Giles,  
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services & Multicultural Affairs

PO Box 6022,  
House of Representatives,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Giles,

I welcome your commitment to restore humane and risk-based immigration detention policy and practices. For years, Australians have been deeply troubled by our country's punitive, cruel treatment of people seeking asylum.

While I realise that there are many areas of your portfolio requiring attention, I ask that you address the issues in immigration detention with all possible urgency. The indefinite nature of detention, along with the seriously sub-standard conditions of detention facilities, have caused grave damage to many people over many years.

I look forward to your government re-instating alternatives to detention as soon as possible. People who pose no risk can be supported to live in the community until durable solutions for them are finalised. Our approach to people fleeing war and persecution should be to help them, not punish them.

In cases where detention is deemed necessary and justified, it should be for the shortest time possible, and in conditions which accord with international human rights standards. There is an urgent need for review of practices in immigration detention such as solitary confinement, use of force, use of restraints.

The introduction of humane and risk-based immigration detention policies would help bring Australia into line with its international obligations and restore Australia to its role as a leader in best practice in refugee resettlement.

I look forward to the Albanese Government taking immediate action on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Name:

Address:

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**Send a copy of your letter to your local MP**

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