

Supported by ARAN, RAR, GFR, & NARN

## Issue for November 2023

*People seeking asylum need a Fair Process*

Available to download at –

- <https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>
- <https://ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/write-a-letter>



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.
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators
- A proforma letter that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email.

### 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)

## Unfair Fast Track Process

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### Why it is important to write about this issue now

The Albanese Government recently announced plans for reforming Australia's visa system in order to prevent exploitation and to ensure that the system serves the needs of those most in need of protection.

We need clarification when proper review processes will be offered to nearly 8,000 people who have insecure visa status because their claims for protection have been rejected under the inadequate Fast Track system and judicial appeal processes.

For more than 10 years they have been in limbo, with no secure visa status and no permanent resettlement solution. Trapped in this state of uncertainty and with limited rights, many of these people are unable to support themselves and their families. Anxiety and depression are common, and people are at risk of suicide.

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### Background

The fast Track Assessment Process for determining refugee status was introduced by the Coalition Government in 2014. It drastically altered the refugee determination process, employing very short timeframes for lodging applications without the necessary legal supports, interpreters, etc. It also removed the possibility of a merits review if claims were rejected.

Prior to the Fast Track process, the rate of acceptance for asylum applicants who arrived by boat was consistently around 90%. Since the implementation of the Fast Track process, that figure has fallen to 66.7%. This was the intended effect of this unfair assessment process.

It is understood that nearly 8,000 people have had their claims for protection rejected under the fast-track assessment process.

The ALP has acknowledged that the Fast Track System does not provide a fair, thorough and robust assessment process for persons seeking protection, and that a merits review process is needed. Under Fast Track there is a very limited avenue for appeal through the courts, which only consider procedural issues, not the substance or legitimacy of the claim for protection. In its 2021 National Platform the ALP stated that it would establish a new, independent Refugee Review Tribunal which would *“allow for procedurally fair, simple, affordable and accessible processes and procedures, including in relation to adverse credibility findings, for the review of refugee related decisions.”*

Since coming to government, the ALP has undertaken to reform the Administrative Appeals Tribunal but has not made any public statement about providing access to merits review for people whose protection claims were rejected under Fast Track.

Many people whose claims have been rejected under Fast Track have come from source countries where the situation has significantly changed for the worse, such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iran and Sudan. These people all need a review which considers the merits of their claim for refugee protection.

People are desperate. There have been a number of suicide attempts, and people are increasingly suffering depression and acute anxiety. Many families are only just surviving as they are entirely dependent on very stretched charities for housing and living expenses.

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### SOURCES

- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-04/clare-oneil-attacks-peter-duttons-immigration-credentials/102935612>
- <https://alp.org.au/media/2594/2021-alp-national-platform-final-endorsed-platform.pdf>
- <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fast-tracking-statistics/6/>

- <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/reviews-and-inquiries/departmental-reviews/rapid-review-exploitation-visa-system>
- <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-pubs/files/nixon-review/government-response-nixon-review.pdf>

**Write to:** Your local MP. Attorney General, **Mark Dreyfus**. Minister for Home Affairs, **Clare O’Neil**.  
Minister for Immigration, **Andrew Giles** ... and ... Labor and Independent Senators in your State

## Addresses for your letters:

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

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### Prime Minister

The Hon Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
or ... use the contact form: <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

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### EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR ALL SENATORS - UPDATED JUNE 2023

NB - For your convenience - **LABOR PARTY SENATORS ARE LISTED IN RED**

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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.kovacic@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.kovacic@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcallister@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.allman-payne@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.allman-payne@aph.gov.au); [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.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);  
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[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.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.Payman@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.Payman@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.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**

The Subject line could be - **CALL TO ACTION – *People seeking asylum need a Fair Process***

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**SAMPLE LETTER: Please use this only as an example and write in your words if possible.**

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*Insert Date*

Dear .....

Your government's recently announced plans for reforming Australia's protection visa system are most welcome, as is your commitment to preventing the exploitation of people seeking asylum and ensuring the system serves the needs of those most in need of protection.

I remain concerned, however, about the precarious situation of the nearly 8,000 people in Australia whose claims for asylum were denied under the unfair Fast Track Assessment process. As you know, the initial assessment process is not thorough, and there is no Merits Review available to provide an appropriate appeals process.

It must be noted that many people with rejected claims are from source countries such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iran, and Sudan, all countries where persecution and violence have significantly escalated. Others include Tamils from Sri Lanka, where the United Nations continues to report ongoing persecution of the Tamil minority by the current Sri Lankan government. All claims for protection should take into account of these worsening circumstances.

In light of your commitment to fair and efficient consideration of protection claims, I am seeking clarification about your Government's plans for this cohort of people. Specifically, when will a Merits Review be provided to properly assess their claims for protection, given changed circumstances in countries of origin?

The situation is critical for these people – nearly 8,000 men, women and children remain in limbo, with no permanent resettlement solution available to them. Trapped in this state of uncertainty and with limited rights for more than 10 years, these people are unable to support themselves and their families. Many do not have work rights, and none have access to income support. Anxiety and depression are common, and people are at risk of suicide.

I seek your assurance that no asylum seekers whose claims for protection have been rejected under the Fast Track process will be deported until such time as their claims have been properly determined and/or reviewed under a new, fair and merits based review process.

Yours sincerely

*Insert your name and address*