



Labor for Refugees Victoria

ALP REFUGEE POLICY

Key features of Labor's refugee policies endorsed at the Special Platform Conference in March 2021 - these will improve the lives of thousands of people.

PERMANENT PROTECTION

- Abolish Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs) and transition holders to permanent protection - at least 18,000 people currently living in Australia.

FAIR PROCESSING

- Abolish the Immigration Assessment Authority and create an independent Refugee Review Tribunal.
- Abolish the existing Fast Track Process - about 4,500 people currently living in Australia are still waiting on decisions.
- People seeking asylum will have "means-tested access to funded migration assistance and to appropriate social services, including income, crisis housing, healthcare, mental health, community, education and English as a second language support during the assessment of the claim for protection".

FAMILY REUNION

- Family reunion is important to successful resettlement. Labor will prioritise applications for citizenship by families, partners and children to ensure families are kept together.

REFUGEE CONVENTION

- Reintroduce appropriate references to the Refugee Convention into the Migration Act 1958.
- Progressively increase our humanitarian intake to 27,000 a year.
- Progressively increase community sponsorship places to 5,000 per year in addition to government sponsored places.
- Significantly increase funding to support the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to improve orderly regional processing and resettlement in the region.
- Recognize the need to create an orderly pathway to resettlement in Australia to provide an alternative to a boat journey.
- Work with the UNHCR and Indonesia to work through the backlog of claims.

DETENTION

- Negotiate an agreement with New Zealand to resettle refugees there, similar to the one secured with the United States and approach other countries as well.
- Improve the medical transfer process for asylum seekers from Nauru and PNG requiring medical attention.
- Strive to ensure that detention is for no longer than 90 days.
- Recognize the role of Comcare enabling it to fulfill its regulatory obligations.
- Create independent and transparent oversight of detention network.
- Appoint a children's advocate independent of the Department of Home Affairs.
- Legislate to impose mandatory reporting of child abuse in detention.
- Recognize the role of state child protection authorities.