

Issue for January 2023:

**END THE SUFFERING FOR ALL REFUGEES STILL HELD ON NAURU AND IN PNG -  
after 10 years in limbo they need a future**

Available to download at -

<https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/rar-groups/online-group/>

OR

<https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>



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

- Background notes prepared by ARAN's Letter Writing Network.
- 1 sample letter - (but letters in your own words are best)
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators

**\*\*\* Letters in your own words 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.

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

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ...

### END THE SUFFERING FOR ALL REFUGEES STILL HELD ON NAURU AND IN PNG - after 10 years in limbo they need a future

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#### Why this issue is important

As of December 2022, around 80 refugees and people seeking asylum were still on Nauru, and around 90 in PNG. Some of these people are being considered for resettlement in either Canada or New Zealand, but some have no pathway to safe resettlement.

Both UNHCR and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre are actively engaging with Home Affairs and the Minister for Immigration to seek medical evacuations from Nauru and PNG. It is understood that a few people have been brought to Australia in recent weeks, but there are many more who need urgent medical treatment and/or mental health care.

#### Background

These refugees and people seeking asylum have been held in limbo for nearly 10 years.

They continue to suffer, and it's time for safe resettlement.

Some have family members and friends in Australia.

All of these people, especially those who do not have a pathway to safe resettlement, should be brought to Australia, with priority to be given to those who need medical care and/or mental health care.

Although the ALP Platform says "*Labor will ensure asylum seekers who arrive by irregular means will not be punished for their mode of arrival*" the government says it is committed to a "robust" migration system that includes regional processing and no settlement in Australia for unauthorised maritime arrivals.

At this point the Albanese government is not prepared to dismantle the offshore option for any people who arrive by boat to seek asylum as it fears an influx of boats and reigniting a political debate on border security.

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#### Current situation - Nauru

Management and Training Corporation (MTC), a US-based private prison operator, is now in charge of Australia's offshore processing regime on Nauru. The Albanese Government awarded the contract to MTC.

The initial contract was for \$47.3m for just 62 days work - that's **three-quarters of a million dollars every day** to provide "garrison and welfare services" for around 80 people on Nauru under Australia's offshore policy for refugees and people seeking asylum. MTC is facing allegations of fraud. See several reports below.

It is important to note that while many of these people will be resettled in either New Zealand or Canada, some are in need of urgent medical attention.

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#### Sources

- Ben Doherty. 'Hardly anyone is getting off': despite Labor's promises, refugees needing urgent medical care remain on Nauru. Guardian Australia. 18 December 2022.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/18/hardly-anyone-is-getting-off-despite-labors-promises-refugees-needing-urgent-medical-care-remain-on-nauru>

- Christopher Knaus and Ben Doherty. US prison operator running Nauru regime accused of fraud and 'pandemic profiteering' in Texas. Guardian Australia. 6 January 2023  
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jan/06/us-prison-operator-running-nauru-detention-centre-accused-of-and-pandemic-profiteering-in-texas>
- Jolie McCullough. Prison contractor MTC accused of billing Texas millions for inmate treatment programs it didn't provide. The Texas Tribune, 22 November 2023  
<https://www.texastribune.org/2022/11/22/texas-prison-parole-mtc-fraud-allegation/>
- Complaint to the Texas State Auditor Regarding Contracts between Management and Training Corporation and The Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Submitted by Latino Justice PRLDEF on November 21, 2022.  
<https://www.latinojustice.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Complaint%20to%20the%20Auditor.pdf>

LatinoJustice mission statement reads: *LatinoJustice works to create a more just society by using and challenging the rule of law to secure transformative, equitable and accessible justice, by empowering our community and by fostering leadership through advocacy and education..*

- Ben Doherty. US prison operator begins \$750,000-a-day contract for Nauru offshore regime. Guardian Australia. 24 October 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/oct/24/us-prisons-operator-mtc-begins-nauru-contract-australia-offshore-immigration-processing-detention>
- Alysia Santo and Joseph Neff. No- Prison Workers Cost Mississippi Taxpayers Millions. The Marshall Project. 12 September 2020.  
<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/09/no-show-prison-workers-cost-mississippi-taxpayers-millions>

*The Marshall Project mission statement says:*

*The Marshall Project is a non-partisan, non-profit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system. We have an impact on the system through journalism, rendering it more fair, effective, transparent and humane.*

## Current situation - PNG

The Australian Government has deserted the 90 or so refugees and people seeking asylum still in PNG.

A payment was made to the PNG Government in December 2021 to provide ongoing support for those still in PNG, and responsibility for the welfare of the refugees and people seeking asylum was 'transferred' to PNG. Since then Australia has refused to take any responsibility.

Some of the people still in PNG are waiting for resettlement in Canada, and some will be eligible for resettlement in New Zealand.

UNHCR is working with the PNG and NZ Governments to assist in assessing refugee status and suitability for resettlement in New Zealand.

However, it is understood that some people are experiencing serious mental health issues and are not able to participate in processes to apply for resettlement. The Catholic Bishops in PNG are also deeply concerned about the wellbeing of some of the refugees, but the Australian Government has not been responsive to calls to have people brought to Australia for urgent mental health care.

It is understood that a number of people still in PNG have no pathway to safe resettlement - these people need to be brought to the safety of Australia and resettlement options for them need to be explored.

<https://jss.org.au/articles/png-visit-affirms-need-for-safe-secure-pathways-for-refugees-and-people-seeking-asylum/>

## 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);  
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[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);

Email addresses for all **Tasmania** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[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);

Email addresses for all **Victorian** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[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);  
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[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 ... .. END THE SUFFERING FOR ALL REFUGEES STILL HELD ON NAURU AND IN PNG**

## Sample Letter ... but **your own words are best**

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### **END THE SUFFERING FOR ALL REFUGEES STILL HELD ON NAURU AND IN PNG - after 10 years in limbo they need a future**

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January 2023

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

Dear Minister O'Neil

I write concerning the ongoing limbo for many of the refugees and people seeking asylum who have been held on Nauru and in PNG by the Australian Government for nearly 10 years. It's time to make sure that all of these people have safe resettlement in Australia if other options are not available to them.

I also understand that there are men who have been held in PNG for all these years who now have severe mental health problems – these people are our responsibility, we have subjected them to years of uncertainty and denied them their natural right to freedom and dignity. We owe them care and compassion.

Minister O'Neil, it is time to end the suffering of all those on Nauru and in PNG who do not have pathways to safe resettlement in Canada or New Zealand. Please urgently resolve this issue by allowing these people to live safely in our Australian community until decisions about safe resettlement can be finalised.

I am also concerned that a contract was recently awarded by the Albanese Government to *Management and Training Corporation (MTC)*, a US-based private prison operator to provide welfare services to refugees and people seeking asylum on Nauru. The initial contract was for \$47.3m for just 62 days, and recently was raised to \$70m. Is there no limit to the amount of our tax revenue which can be spent on cruelty and depriving people of their rights?

It has been reported in the media that MTC was accused of fraud in the USA; MTC has been accused of forcing prisoners to sign falsified documents, and of pocketing millions of taxpayers' dollars to pay non-existent employees.

A former Labor Government sent refugees to PNG and Nauru. No one anticipated the acute suffering for all those subjected to the offshore regime, and the condemnation from international human rights bodies that this policy has attracted. It's time to end the suffering for those unfortunate individuals who, in their search for freedom, encountered cruelty and have been punished for nearly 10 years.

It's time to close this shameful chapter, and reset our response to those who seek safety and freedom.

Your sincerely

*Your name and address*