

I, Christopher Monie, submit

1. That the approach of the Australian Government to asylum seekers arriving by boat is morally destitute;
2. That that approach is driven by desire to placate a hostile press, opposition and a highly misinformed electorate;
3. That the Government has been incompetent in providing proper information either through the Press or in any other way to counteract constant misinformation.

I further submit that

1. Asylum seekers are not illegal;
2. Have a right to be processed on mainland Australia with appropriate legal representation if necessary;
3. Should be processed within 30 days or
4. Released into the community under certain conditions but with a right to maintenance, healthcare and temporary work.

I further submit that

1. the Australian government should immediately establish a protocol with Indonesia that allows for the thirty day processing to occur in that country in a centre administered by the United Nations at the current cost to Australia of administering Christmas Island; and that
2. Asylum seekers arriving without papers from Indonesia will be returned to Indonesia for processing under that protocol except that
3. Unaccompanied minors will be processed in Australia with Children's Centres being established in each State Capital and that
4. Family reunion will only occur through overseas processing centres unless extreme circumstances are proven in the appropriate Australian Law Court with full access to Australian and international legal representation

I further submit that

1. Any person held in detention pending processing after thirty days will attract the right to Government protection and benefits as would apply to any person on a permanent residency visa except insofar as permanent residency does not yet apply; but that
2. After 120 days, unless deportation to a United Nations Refugee Camp has already been ordered and will be enacted within 180 days, permanent residency will apply;
3. Except insofar as no right of Citizenship or re-entry to Australia will apply for five years.

Finally I submit that

1. The same rules will apply to people requesting the same consideration arriving by any other means of transport.

Conclusion:

We live in a global community facing extraordinary circumstances. It makes no sense to "protect our borders". We need to project an image of Australia as a nation with slight capacity to support a larger population - but until we are level with the global community we must accept major changes in our inflated lifestyle.