



Dr Edwin Joseph JP
President

20 February 2023

Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Australia Canberra ACT

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Evacuation to Safety) Bill 2023

MCNT welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Evacuation to Safety) Bill 2023.

The Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory (MCNT) is the peak body organisation that provides advocacy and support services to people from multicultural backgrounds in the Northern Territory. We strongly support the Bill, which compels the Government to offer transfer to Australia to all persons still subject to offshore processing in PNG or Nauru, within one month of the commencement of the Bill.

The Bill insists on the evacuation of people from offshore processing centres to reside in Australia under UN's *1951 Convention Relating to the status of Refugees* or the *1967 Protocol Relating to status of Refugees*. Refugees held offshore are in critical condition.

This Bill must be managed to pass due to the importance of the Bill, which is now considered necessary for the wellbeing of the remaining 150 individuals, who have been subject to harm and cruelty for a decade for seeking asylum.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr Edwin Joseph

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