

I am very concerned about those on Manus and Nauru, are still waiting to be brought to Australia for proper treatment.

We all know by now that this level of care is not possible in PNG. And we are responsible for the asylum seekers as it is our country where they sought asylum. The UN has made it clear that our treatment of refugees/asylum seekers is illegal and inhumane.

I have a friend who spent time as a psychologist on Nauru and she herself was traumatised from the heart-breaking situation she witnessed working with people who had lost all hope of a humane response from the Australian government. Medecins sans Frontieres reported this woman's experience some years ago. One can only imagine how those who remain off-shore have deteriorated. The number of suicides is a terrible reminder of the despair felt.

I have read the brilliant and heart-breaking book by the Kurdish philosopher/poet Behrouz Boochani, and seen his film, Chauka. I would hope politicians would take the time (and the courage) to find out the depths of the punishments that goes on there by reading the book and watching the film. You could not help but be shocked by the de-humanising that goes on in these terrible detention centres. As I see it what it needs is the ability to put yourself in the place of these people and use your imagination - how would you respond if members of your family had been killed or endangered? You then took the risk to save what is left of your family, you scrape together money to get you to a kinder place, only to be re-traumatised in the place where you hoped to be safe. You are treated like a number, not a human being. Children separated from their mothers and fathers, suffering a lack of any hope after nearly 6 years in detention. I hope you will vote with your conscience and support the Medivac bill.

With hope,

Caroline Davis