

Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill 2010

I am concerned about this Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill 2010 for many reasons.

People can be innocently involved by providing funds to desperate people and unknowns to them they may use the money to pay a people smuggler. People could be jailed for assisting refugees.

Desperate people do desperate things. If the Australian governments and their international counterparts did more to assist Asylum Seekers/refugees instead of erecting immense legal and military-police barriers to block refugees from entering, these desperate people would not have to resort to dangerous voyages.

Every one has the right to seek asylum if their lives are at risk due to political, ethnic or religious repression and war and it is not illegal to seek asylum.

The paper states that, "the Government is devoting unprecedented resources to protecting Australia's borders and developing intelligence on people smuggling syndicates." Less than 10% of people seeking asylum in Australia come in via boat.

Your own figures show the large number of asylum seekers and displaced people. More money should be spent assisting these people. Australia is taking a lot less refugees/ asylum seekers than most other countries.

The refugee/asylum seeker issue should not be a political issue, one party against the other but human issue.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret O'Donnell

