

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives assembled in Parliament

The petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House:

The Australian Government currently has in place a system of mandatory detention of asylum seekers who arrive on-shore seeking asylum in Australia. Some of these Asylum Seekers, who after presenting their case and going through the long process of assessment, are officially recognised as a refugee and given permanent protection under the Humanitarian Program, are *still* found to be liable for their costs of detention.

Furthermore, cases where the Australian Government has initially refused to grant refugee status to someone - who a court later determines is a refugee and undergoes prolonged detention as a result of the initial refusal - appear to be billed for a larger amount, as a result of the prolonged detention resulting from the Government's error.

Your petitioners therefore ask the House to:

- Review the policy of the mandatory detention of asylum seekers, as it currently operates in Australia with a view to make any detention the minimum necessary to ensure the asylum seeker is not a threat to the health or safety of the community.
- Abolish by law any billing of asylum seekers found to be refugees or assessed as needing protection in Australia for the cost of any detention they have been subjected to.