

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE
MIGRATION ACT 1958.**

Thank you for the opportunity to send a submission into the above enquiry.

My background.

I am a mother and grandmother. I first became involved in Refugees/Asylum seekers when I came across a group called Chilout on the internet. From this I searched for other Refugee support groups and through Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) I started corresponding with refugees on Nauru and at the present time I am corresponding with two young men.

My thoughts.

These young men have been on Nauru for four years, a very long time. Their stories are heartbreaking. In their regular letters to me they tell of their shock at the way they have been treated, their anger at being regarded as criminals, their profound sadness at being apart from their families, and their desolation as to what the future holds. They are very depressed as you can imagine. I feel that to be locked up and detained for a lengthy period is possibly the worst thing that could happen to them after the traumas they have sustained in their homeland and on the journey to Australia.

How can our Government justify keeping people locked up for four years when all they have done is seek asylum in our country? I just feel it is so unfair and so un-Australian. These people are human beings who have suffered terribly in their country of origin. They need our help.

I also think that Temporary Protection Visas are unfair. For people that have been granted temporary protection visas life must be very uncertain when they do not know if they can stay permanently in Australia. This must be difficult to bear. And of course it is very wrong to deny people access to their families.

My requests to the Australian Government.

- a. Release the people remaining on Nauru immediately.
- b. Cease long term detention of Asylum seekers.
- c. Issue permanent visas to people assessed as genuine refugees.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jennifer Tranter.