



NEWSLETTER March 2022



A HOME! A NZ HOME – AT LAST!

After nine years of missed opportunity for 1350 refugees to safely settle in New Zealand, the Coalition Government has finally accepted an offer to settle 150 people a year over the next three years. Good news for 450, but what about the rest?

The deal announced on 24 March 2022 applies to 'unauthorized maritime arrivals' currently or recently detained on Nauru. It still leaves those sent offshore to Manus Island and PNG with no new hope for safe settlement. Any who have made an application for settlement in other countries like the US and Canada are also not eligible under the terms agreed.

The Morrison Government's back flip sees it abandon its claim that New Zealand would become a 'back door' for refugees to enter Australia.

New Zealand commentators have judged Australia's agreement as purely political, just weeks out from a federal election and 8 weeks after Novak Djokovic's 6-day detention in Melbourne's Park Prison Hotel put a national and global media spotlight on Australia's bizarre treatment of refugees.

In a further indication that the Government fears its treatment of refugees is becoming a negative election issue for the Coalition, 14 refugees were quietly released in Melbourne and Brisbane on the eve of the Labor Day long weekend.

Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews reiterated that no one who travelled to Australia via boat would be resettled here. "Anyone who attempts to breach our borders will be turned back or sent to Nauru," she said

Labor welcomed the deal but suggested it had come much too late. The ALP Home Affairs spokeswoman Kristina Keneally said: "This is a humiliating backflip for Scott Morrison who claimed as recently as 2018 that New Zealand's generous offer to resettle refugees would see people smugglers restart their evil trade.

"That was not true then and is not true now." #

Djokovic freed to live his life ... now

FREE THE REFUGEES

The prison hotel detention of Novak Djokovic is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the application of our harsh Migration Act. It is designed to keep innocent people in immigration detention without end.

The celebrity tennis player was freed to get on with his life after just six days and two court hearings.

Innocent people seeking asylum have been held for more than 3000 days with no court hearing or end date to their detention. The world stopped to watch when Djokovic was sent to the Park prison hotel. Who will keep watch until there is freedom for the refugees?



It is not illegal to be a refugee.

Indefinite detention of people fleeing war and persecution is not a plan. Being deliberately cruel to one unfortunate group so that others will not attempt to come here is crude marketing.

A policy that relies on cruelty is inhumane and discredits all Australians.



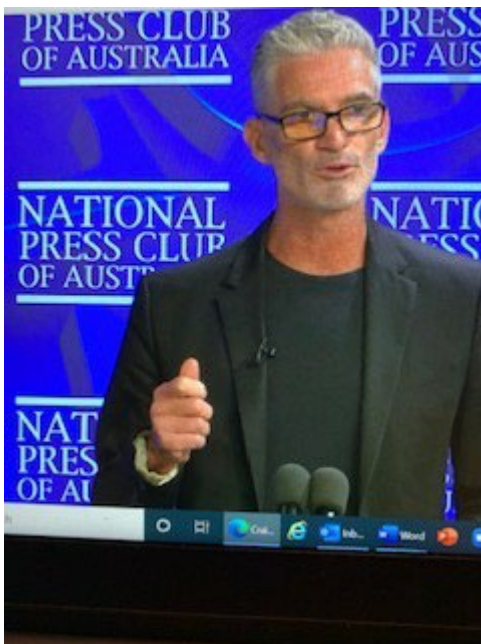


Concerted lobbying by Human Rights advocate **Craig Foster** and the **#GameOver** campaigners have led the way on pushing for acceptance of the NZ offer.

(L-R: Moz Azimitabar, Craig Foster, Farhad Bandesh)

In the week before the changed policy announcement, Foster gave a 'forceful' address to the National Press Club in Canberra.

Spend an hour and nine minutes of your life with Craig Foster... spent time you won't regret.



"We have to talk about boats," Foster says, referring to the boat trophy the Prime Minister keeps in his office. Foster goes on to talk about...

"Singularly vicious, abject cruelty."

"The subversion of our own sense of goodness."

"We are leading the world in the torture of refugees."

"Companies have gorged at the public trough. A free market of pain."

"There is no queue. There is NO QUEUE, Australia."

"I want Australians to look at the cycle we are caught in."

Don't miss this: Craig Foster at the National Press Club speaking truth to Australia. Click on this link

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/national-press-club-address/series/0/video/NC2211C008S00>. 1hr 9 mins.

You can hear Craig Foster live at this upcoming event

ONLINE FORUM: Wednesday 6 April, 7pm - 8.15pm AEST.

Fair Go for refugees: **Australia can do better**

Australia is failing refugees: **what a decent approach would look like**

Register here:

<https://amnestyau.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpceyvqz8rGN04nQ7rAQOn5hi9PRdranbe>

OFFSHORE MEDIA RESPONSES to the NZ DEAL ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK



Australia has accepted a nearly decade-old offer that would allow New Zealand to resettle hundreds of asylum seekers that Australia has held at offshore processing centers on the island nation of Nauru — a policy that has come under criticism from human rights groups...

The Australia-run offshore processing centers have been controversial. Human rights groups said they constitute an international law violation and have denounced the centers' conditions. Human Rights Watch in 2016 said refugees on Nauru suffer neglect and inhumane treatment — and even [said](#) the “government's failure to address serious abuses appears to be a deliberate policy to deter further asylum seekers.

Around 112 refugees remain in Nauru and 105 in Papua New Guinea, according to the Refugee Council of Australia. Its data shows that 3,127 people have been sent offshore since July 2013 — with around 1,100 brought to Australia for temporary purposes and 993 settled in the United States. Australia [announced](#) in October that it would end its detention deal with Papua New Guinea, though its arrangement with Nauru would remain.



Australia sends 450 refugees to New Zealand in a landmark deal despite years complaining that would create be a 'backdoor' for asylum seekers to enter the country

- **New Zealand offered to take refugees who arrived in Australia years ago**
- **Now the offer has finally been accepted and 450 will be transferred to NZ**
- **Minister Karen Andrews says no illegal arrivals would be allowed to settle**
- **Labor said the Government has 'backflipped' after refusing deal for nine years**



Australia finally accepts New Zealand's offer to take refugees

In a major about-turn, Australia has accepted New Zealand's long-standing offer to take 150 refugees a year for three years from detention centres in the Pacific.

The deal aims to rehome some of the thousands of refugees who have arrived in Australia by boat and been placed in detention in line with the country's policy.

The original offer was made by then-prime minister John Key in 2013 and has continued to be extended by his successors Bill English and Jacinda Ardern.

Australian authorities have rejected the proposal until now, citing concerns that the refugees could claim Kiwi citizenship and then travel into Australia freely...

Some 4174 people, including children, were detained by Australia after unauthorised arrival by boat in 1999 and 2000. Since the second iteration of offshore detention began in 2012, refugees banished to Melanesia by Australia have suffered appalling rates of mental illness...

Read more [Australia finally accepts New Zealand's offer to take refugees | RNZ News](#)

Meantime, ONSHORE...

Jacqui Lambie's secret deal with Scott Morrison to release refugees revealed

Independent Senator Jacqui Lambie has lifted the lid on a secret deal, saying the PM told her she risked jail if she told the truth about it.

Samantha Maiden



@samanthamaiden 3 min read March 24, 2022 - 7:04PM news.com.au

Independent Senator Jacqui Lambie has lifted the lid on her secret deal with Scott Morrison to release over 400 asylum seekers from Nauru and Manus Island, revealing the Prime Minister told her she risked jail if she told the truth about it.



The Tasmanian Senator has refused for years to detail what her deal was with the Prime Minister, after she tearfully voted to scuttle Medevac legislation that was originally passed against the government's will by independents in the last sitting week of 2018.

Read more: [Jacqui Lambie's secret deal with Scott Morrison to release refugees revealed | news.com.au](https://www.news.com.au/jacqui-lambie-secret-deal-with-scott-morrison-to-release-refugees-revealed/news-story/2022-03-24) — Australia's leading news site

Ian Rintoul, RAC Sydney

"While the New Zealand deal is a welcome development for a handful of people on Nauru, it is nine years too late. The deal cannot hide the fundamental cruelty of Australia's refugee detention regime. Like the US deal which is still not complete after six years, 'third country resettlement' is a way for the Australian government to deny protection and resettlement to refugees in Australia. The refugees Australia illegally dumped in PNG are excluded from the deal

"The Coalition government was forced to announce the New Zealand deal in the dying days of its term in office, but under the terms of the deal, hundreds of refugees brought from PNG and Nauru to Australia will continue to be denied permanent settlement in Australia."

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Author



Michelle Grattan
Professorial Fellow, University of Canberra

In a major turnaround, the Morrison government has accepted New Zealand's long-standing offer to resettle annually 150 refugees who came by boat.

The Coalition government previously refused to take up the offer, which goes back to 2013, on the ground that it could provide an incentive for people to get on boats to try to come to Australia. The government said sending refugees to New Zealand would provide a "pull factor".

The agreement appears part of removing political "barnacles" before the May election. Shadow minister for home affairs, Kristina Keneally, said it "is just another pre-election promise to protect inner-city Liberal seats". [Morrison government finally accepts deal with New Zealand to resettle refugees \(theconversation.com\)](https://www.theconversation.com/morrison-government-finally-accepts-deal-with-new-zealand-to-resettle-refugees)

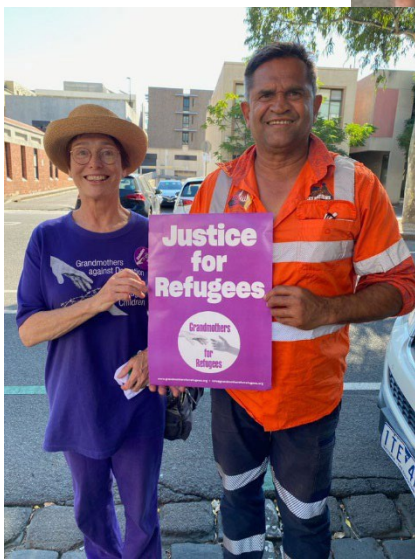


At the St Kilda vigil
 (Left) This is **Tiz** from Ethiopia and her daughter **Layla**. She is a refugee who went to America first (her mother had applied to come to Australia but was refused!) Tiz married and came to Australia 7 years ago. Of course, she has an American accent, but says she is very happy here.

(Below) Messages that cross the generational divide. The schoolkids were keen to join the **Macnamara Grandmothers** in St Kilda.



(Below) AFL great, **Nicky Winmar**, met up with Grandmothers during their vigil at the Park Prison Hotel and was happy to stand up for refugees.



(Left) **Treasurer Josh Frydenberg** has \$16bn to play with in uncommitted funds squirrelled away for the Tuesday night budgetfest. Will they bring enough joy to Kooyong voters to save the blue-ribbon seat for JF? Or will he have more time for tennis in 2022?

CALL TO ACTION: Purple up for Palm Sunday

**PALM SUNDAY RALLY MELBOURNE
SUNDAY 10 APRIL**

**START AT STATE LIBRARY 2PM
THEN WALK TOGETHER TO
PARK PRISON HOTEL**

Please wear masks and bring all your banners and posters.



2022 CAMPAIGN FUNDS NEEDED

A warm 'thank you' to those who have made recent donations in support of our advocacy for refugees. Such gifts are always welcome, but especially at this time just weeks away from a federal election.

Funds donated are used for printing materials used in local communities and at major rallies advocating for refugees. Donations may be made by direct funds transfer to our NAB bank

account: **Name: Grandmothers for Refugees**

BSB: 083170

Account No: 83 813 3480

** ** *

Executive Update: Gill Meek resignation

In a message to the Executive on 15 March, Gill said: *I've made the decision sadly, but I think sensibly, to step down from the executive committee. I really haven't been able to contribute to the executive at the level that's needed or the level I wanted to be able to contribute. Now more than ever, with the election looming and the work ahead, I think you need someone who can give the executive the time the role deserves and needs.*

The Executive has thanked Gill for all her efforts and sent warm wishes on behalf of the whole membership. As the term of the current executive group ends after the federal election, it has been decided not to fill the vacancy at this time. With a mind to current needs, the Executive will invite those with relevant skills to assist the work of 'Grandmothers Central' on behalf of our growing membership in resourcing implementation of the upcoming election campaign strategy.

(WORDSMITHS! If you have writing and desktop publishing skills, we would LOVE to hear from you. Message Jean at info@grandmothersforrefugees.org).

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

Grandmothers for Refugees welcome the many new members who have recently joined our movement and are out in their communities campaigning for the humane treatment of refugees.

'Vote for Better! Vote for Change!'

And FINALLY...

We are exploring the costs of printing this design as posters /corflutes to be ready for the official campaign period – donations permitting! In the meantime, for those with local resources and wanting a fresh handout for your electorate campaign events, below is a pdf file you can use to print locally.

Best wishes,

Jean, Margaret, Jane, Linda

Grandmothers
for
Refugees

Grandmothers say:
“Make a difference
at the coming
Federal election.”

✓ VOTE
for
CHANGE

✓ VOTE
for
BETTER

www.grandmothersforrefugees.org

Authorised by Jean for Walsh, 73 Oshu Street, Richmond 3121



Corflute.pdf