

## Media Highlights

### ABC

Breaking news;

Refugee died after jumping from the moving bus on Manus Island

The Rohingya man was travelling from refugee accommodation into the island's main town shortly after 11:00am local time when he jumped from the vehicle. Man was suffering from epilepsy and two years ago was sent to Australia for medical treatment but he was sent back without any treatment. He is the eight Asylum seeker that died under Australian offshore processing regime.

22 May 2018

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-22/manus-island-refugee-dead-after-jumping-from-moving-bus/9786852>

### The Guardian

Amnesty International in their latest report criticized Australian government of termination of mental health services despite the 700 refugees on Manus have highest rate of mental illness in the world, according to UN reports. The Manus Island detention centre was closed on 31 October last year and services including health care are withdrawn. Amnesty International's findings are consistent with those of UNHCR, that health care for refugees is inadequate and declining.

18 May 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/may/18/australias-cut-to-healthcare-on-manus-island-inexplicable-amnesty-says>

### Young Nats 'appalled' as conference motion targets immigrants

NSW Young Nationals' annual conference at Lismore was used to push motion targeting immigrants who were not from 'culturally appropriate' countries. (0 minutes debate was packed with racist undertones, according to sources, but the mover of the motion, newly-elected Metro Region Coordinator Clifford Jennings, denied the accusation. Motion was narrowly defeated and drew fire from outgoing NSW Young Nats chair Jess Price-Purnell, and Deputy NSW Premier John Barilaro.

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/5433825/young-nats-appalled-as-conference-motion-targets-immigrants/?cs=4941>

### UN tells Australia to take responsibility for refugees

UN refugee official visiting Manus Island has urged Australia to take responsibility for the hundreds of refugees stranded on Papua New Guinea. UNHCR deputy regional representative Nai Jit Lam described situation as serious and concerning.

<https://www.qt.com.au/news/un-tells-aust-take-responsibility-for-refugees/3271796/>

### **Peter Dutton says third country resettlement for Manus Island refugees 'a myth'**

Refugees on Manus Island who are not resettled to US will remain on Papua New Guinea. The government deal with Trump administration to resettle 1200 refugees from offshore detention is slow process and it is not clear when or how the deal will be implemented. Australia also made the deal with Cambodia but only three people are resettled.

22 May 2018

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-07/peter-dutton-says-third-country-resettlment-option-a-myth/9734744>

### **More Nauru refugees on their way to US**

Yesterday, nineteen refugees left Nauru for the US. The number of refugees accepted by US is now 286 out of 1250 that Trump administration agree to accept. There are more than 1500 asylum-seekers and refugees who remain stranded on Manus Island and Nauru, although only refugees can be considered under the deal with the US.

18 June 2018

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration/more-nauru-refugees-on-their-way-to-us/news-story/3f570c89f74ef384cb1d44c0414ec75c>

### **Asylum seeker advocates rally in Canberra**

Sarvenaz Almasi was cut off from the social safety net supporting her study as an Iranian refugee on the day of her university orientation in February. She belongs to a group of 13 000 people that are at risk to lose much needed support.

Ms Almasi was joined by representatives from 10 welfare groups at Parliament House on Monday to protest government changes to support for asylum seekers.

18 June 2018

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/2018/06/18/09/26/asylum-seeker-advocates-rally-in-canberra>

### **Deaths in offshore detention: the faces of the people who have died in Australia's care**

Twelve refugees and asylum seekers have died while in Australian immigration detention on Manus Island and Nauru. On World Refugee Day, Guardian Australia acknowledges those who have died and begins a project to record lives lost in offshore detention.

Last victim of immigration policy was Fariborz Karami from Iran. Karami killed himself in his tent the RPC3 camp – also known as family camp – inside the Australian-run regional processing centre on Nauru after years of deteriorating mental health.

20 June 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2018/jun/20/deaths-in-offshore-detention-the-faces-of-the-people-who-have-died-in-australias-care>

### Qld senator slams 'fake' Muslim refugees

Katter's Australia Party Senator Fraser Anning has urged Australia to let in white South African refugees to save them from "genocide".

Queensland senator Fraser Anning has lashed out at "fake" Muslim refugees, arguing white South Africans instead need to be urgently allowed in to Australia to avoid "black radical" genocide. The recent recruit to Bob Katter's Australia Party called on the federal government to address the "humanitarian crisis" in South Africa.

"Unlike the Muslim fake refugees, much loved by the Greens and company, who come here to live in public housing and collect welfare, white South African immigrants to Australia have a strong record of self-reliance, integration into the community, working hard and paying taxes," Senator Anning told parliament.

20 June 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/qld-senator-slams-fake-muslim-refugees>

### Refugees held by Australia languish in a world beyond suffering and suicide

*Kurdish journalist, filmmaker and human rights activist Behrouz Boochani has been held on Manus Island for over four years under Australia's border protection policy. He fled Iran when police began to arrest his colleagues. The views expressed are his own.*

#### **Manus Island, Papua New Guinea (CNN)**

We are forgotten people, discarded on forgotten islands.

It seems that we disappear from the public eye until another death takes place. It seems that our message from Manus Island -- and the message of women, children and families on Nauru -- is only delivered when we pay the price of death.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/06/19/opinions/australia-manus-refugee-opinion-intl/index.html>

### Tamil family from Biloela handed deportation notice despite 21-day appeal period

Australian Border Force (ABF) officials have been condemned as "underhanded" for acting late on Friday afternoon to issue a deportation notice to a Tamil asylum seeker family that could see them flown out of Australia within days. Biloela-based family friend Angela Fredericks said she received a call about the notice from a family friend at about 5:00pm on Friday and was told the family could be deported by next Tuesday. "They were given 21 days to appeal this court's decision, and it's quite underhanded that we're taking them out of the country before they can even do that," Ms Fredericks said.

23 June 2018

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-23/tamil-family-biloela-deportation-notice-after-court-ruling/9902206>

## **Protesters clash over refugees and 'Islamisation'**

Minor scuffles have broken out at a rally in Melbourne's CBD where anti-racism supporters easily outnumbered the flag-waving far-right campaigners. A massive number of riot police and mounted officers ensured the Aussie Pride Flag March, organised by right wing group True Blue Crew, did not get out of control on Sunday.

The True Blue Crew is a "pro-Australian" far-right group that campaigns against accepting refugees and wants to stop Islamisation. Aussie Pride marches were also held in Sydney and Perth on Sunday.

25 June 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/protesters-clash-over-refugees-and-islamisation>

## **Government buckles, brings dying refugee to Australia**

The Australian government has brought a dying asylum seeker from Nauru to Brisbane for palliative care - buckling in the face of growing outrage. The asylum seeker, identified in media reports as a 63-year-old Hazara father named Ali, is believed to have only months or weeks to live as he fights aggressive lung cancer. More than 2000 doctors, numerous organisations and thousands of Australians petitioned the government to bring Ali to Australia after it was reported the Department of Home Affairs wanted him to be flown to Taiwan for palliative care.

23 June 2018

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/2018/06/23/19/53/govt-buckles-brings-dying-refugee-to-aust>

## **Australia has weaponised suicide and Peter Dutton just admitted it**

What happens now that the man in charge of Australia's immigration and asylum seeker policies has said if we want to stop the boats, we cannot stop the suicides?

Barely a week after Fariborz Karami died by suicide on Nauru, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has warned against Australians extending a “single act of compassion” to people detained in offshore detention. After five years of running Labor’s camps, it is the Coalition’s latest, perhaps most honest, admission that our immigration system requires continued and deliberate human suffering. It is important we take the Home Affairs Minister’s comments in context. The Department of Home Affairs has recently buckled to pressure to bring a dying asylum seeker to Australia for palliative care, and failed to stop suicidal children from receiving care in Australia; in the face of those precedents, a suicide on Manus Island last month, and news that Australia chose to ignore months of warnings about Karami, Dutton is at pains to ramp up fear over boat arrivals.

Basically, if we want to stop the boats, we cannot stop the suicides.

25 June 2018

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/06/25/how-the-coalition-has-weaponised-suicide-in-detention-centres/>

## **Australia: immigration blueprint or reputational blot?**

As populists in the United States and Europe embrace increasingly hard-line immigration policies, Australia is touting its own uncompromising stance, a controversial yet effective campaign that has largely stopped boatpeople reaching its shores.

Canberra has courted both praise and outrage in the last five years after its conservative government adopted tough tactics to halt the flood of arrivals.

The policy worked with boat arrivals plummeting -- even if it did provoke a visceral division among the Australian public and hurt the country's reputation internationally.

28 June 2018

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/australia-immigration-blueprint-reputational-blot-021322878--spt.html>

## **This Is What Refugees On Manus And Nauru Want Australians To Know**

The Australian-run regional processing centre on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island has been shut down. The centre on the tiny Pacific nation of Nauru hosts a fraction of the people it did at its peak. But hundreds of refugees -- men, women and children, from countries including Iran, Syria, Sudan, Pakistan, Myanmar and more still remain stranded on the two tiny specks of land, trapped in a years-long limbo that shows no signs of ending.

Almost all those remaining on Manus and Nauru have been found to be legitimate refugees, with many of the remainder still waiting for their refugee status to be determined.

This means they have been ruled to have well-founded fears of punishment, persecution or imprisonment if they return to their home country. They cannot go back; they will not be let into Australia; and the Australian government is blocking them from going to New Zealand, after the Kiwis made several offers to take refugees from the centres. Their only options are to hope to be one of up to 1200 refugees accepted for resettlement in the United States, or remain permanently on the islands severely lacking in basic infrastructure and medical care, where they were imprisoned for years, where they watched friends die, where they themselves experienced trauma, violence, assault.

15 July 2018

<https://tendaily.com.au/news/a180424wfi/this-is-what-refugees-on-manus-and-nauru-want-australians-to-know-20180714>

## **UN body decries Australia's illegal detention of refugees**

Canberra: A key United Nations body has condemned as arbitrary and illegal Australia's indefinite incarceration of refugees and asylum seekers, issuing critical statements on five separate cases in a year. But those unlawfully held remain in indefinite detention, where they have been held for up to nine years without charge. The government said detention was "not limited by a set time frame" but dependent upon factors such as identity, health, character, or security matters.

"Relevant assessments are completed as expeditiously as possible to facilitate the shortest possible time frame for detaining people in immigration detention facilities."

And the indefinite detention of non-citizens is lawful under Australian domestic law.

The director principal of Human Rights For All, lawyer Alison Battisson, who has brought all six of the indefinite detention cases before the working group, said the UN had made a clear statement that Australia's practice of indefinitely detaining refugees and asylum seekers was unlawful and must cease.

8 July 2018

<https://gulfnnews.com/news/asia/australia/un-body-decries-australia-s-illegal-detention-of-refugees-1.2248096>

## **Activists pressure airlines over asylum seekers and refugees**

Activists are condemning Australian airlines for profiting off the deportation of refugees and asylum seekers. First reported by Fairfax, Qantas and Virgin Australia are in the sights of human rights activists for their role in the country's immigration system, which multiple bodies within the UN have heavily criticised for failing to uphold international human rights standards.

The UN Human Rights Committee has long condemned Australia's refugee policy, particularly the management of offshore detention centres on Nauru and (now-closed) Manus Island, where assaults, sexual abuse, child abuse, and squalid living conditions were documented.

Qantas didn't sound like it was going to change its policy. "The Government and courts are best placed to make decisions on complex immigration matters, not airlines," a Qantas spokesman told Mashable. "We appreciate that this is a sensitive issue."

Virgin Australia issued a similarly neutral response to the calls.

Australian lobby group GetUp! has thrown their support behind the call, having long championed the related No Business in Abuse campaign against corporations profiting from human suffering in Australia's detention camps.

10 August 2018

<https://mashable.com/2018/08/09/qantas-virgin-australia-pressure-over-refugees/#J.FJ3g8eliqp>

## **Blaming a rising population is easy. Finding solutions is hard but it can be done**

The calls to cut migration gives politicians an easy pass. We shouldn't let them get away with it.

As Australia reached a population of 25 million this week there was much discussion about whether or not we were growing too quickly and whether or not we should scale back immigration. While such a debate can often see racism and xenophobia come to the fore, it is also far too often used by politicians eager to look like they have found easy solutions. We should not let them get away with it and demand more, not just of our debate but of government policy.

For those like me who favour migration the argument is always rather more difficult than for those who would see migration as the cause – and its cutting as the solution – of so many problems

12 August 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/grogonomics/2018/aug/12/blaming-a-rising-population-is-easy-finding-solutions-is-hard-but-it-can-be-done>

## **Australia condemns senator who demanded 'final solution' to immigration but won't stop own 'inhuman' refugee treatment**

When recently appointed Australian Sen. Fraser Anning commenced his debut speech on Tuesday, few had heard of the right-wing Queensland politician.

And if you had only watched the end of it — when Australian politicians including the leader of the government in the Senate shook Anning's hand, following a long-standing tradition after a first speech — you wouldn't have sensed anything suspicious, either.

But in between, Anning had just demanded a "final solution" to Muslim immigration, using Adolf Hitler's exact words to describe what is now known as the Holocaust.

In Parliament, the Australian government's rhetoric has largely remained conciliatory.

For five years, Australia has detained hundreds of refugees on a remote island that is part of Papua New Guinea. Deadly clashes, deteriorating conditions and pro-immigration protests in Australia kept their plight in the public debate. Some of the men have since been resettled in the United States, but human rights organizations recently raised renewed concerns over the health of those who remain.

15 August 2018

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2018/08/15/australias-government-rushed-condemn-far-right-senator-who-demanded-final-solution-immigration-its-own-inhuman-refugee-treatment-continues/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.a1c5f642b92c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2018/08/15/australias-government-rushed-condemn-far-right-senator-who-demanded-final-solution-immigration-its-own-inhuman-refugee-treatment-continues/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.a1c5f642b92c)

## Concerns grow for refugees refusing food and water

A 12-year-old refugee on Nauru has not eaten for nearly two weeks while a Manus Island refugee is also refusing food and water.

Refugee advocacy organisation Doctors for Refugees has been monitoring the boy's health.

"Doctors have had concerns about this young child for a very long time," Doctors for Refugees president Dr Barri Phatarfod told the ABC.

"He's got quite a difficult family situation, and it's been almost two weeks now that he's refused food and fluid.

"He's severely depressed. I don't really want to say much more about his personal medical condition but it's pretty obvious that when you've got a child that refuses to eat or drink for up to two weeks they are profoundly depressed."

18 August 2018

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/364308/concerns-grow-for-refugees-refusing-food-and-water>

## The Refugee Book Secretly Written On WhatsApp From Manus

For a man imprisoned for years on a distant speck of an island, cut off from communication but for a smuggled mobile phone, it's ironic that Behrouz Boochani has achieved a technological world first. His book, 'No Friend But The Mountains', is thought to be the first novel ever written entirely via text message.

"I was scared of the authorities, the guards. Anytime they could come and take our property. Imagine if I wrote my book on paper and lost it," the Iranian journalist and refugee told ten daily from Manus Island.

"That's why I decided to write on WhatsApp and send it. When I sent messages, I felt relieved,

because I was sure my friend saved them."Boochani has been on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island since 2014, first in the Australian-run detention centre and now in an Australian-funded accommodation facility with other refugees.

19 August 2018

<https://tendaily.com.au/news/australia/a180816eol/the-refugee-book-secretly-written-on-whatsapp-from-manus-20180818>

## **'Very black record': Refugee groups alarmed about Morrison prime ministership**

Refugee advocacy groups have voiced their concerns about Scott Morrison becoming the 30th prime minister of Australia.

Mr Morrison served as Minister for Immigration and Border Protection from 2013-2014, where he launched Operation Sovereign Borders (or colloquially, the "stop the boats" policy) to curtail immigration and people smuggling to Australia. Refugee Action Coalition spokesperson Ian Rintoul told SBS News Mr Morrison "has a very black record as immigration minister", presiding over "horrors" in offshore detention facilities. It was a point echoed by Jana Favero, the director of advocacy and campaigns at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Ms Favero said this included introducing temporary visas for refugees and passing a law that keeps families separated.

25 August 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/very-black-record-refugee-groups-alarmed-about-morrison-prime-ministership>

## **'Darkness surrounds me': Nauru child refugee paints pictures of despair**

Medicated, terrified and traumatised, seven-year-old Ahoora has been held for five years on the island. Experts say his drawings reflect a broader, familial deterioration. Given pens, Ahoora draws.

They are not the conventional drawings of a seven-year-old child: he draws pictures of children on fire, of sharks circling small terrified boys, of crying faces behind bars. Seven-year-old Ahoora, a refugee, has spent most of his life on [Nauru](#). He arrived on the island as a three-year-old and has only traumatic memories of his life before, and of his journey to Australia. He has spent years being heavily medicated with antidepressants.

A succession of psychiatrists and doctors who have attempted to treat Ahoora have consistently reported it is his detention on Nauru that is damaging his mental health. He has a series of behavioural tics and, when frightened, chews his clothing until he disintegrates it. He is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder exacerbated by his continued detention and the absence of any hope for his future.

27 August 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/27/darkness-surrounds-me-nauru-child-refugee-paints-pictures-of-despair>

## **Refugee children on Nauru are Googling how to kill themselves, whistleblower warns**

Refugee children on Nauru are facing an unprecedented health crisis and are at a real risk of death, three whistle-blowers have warned.

One healthcare worker recently employed on Nauru told 7.30 some of the children are using Google to research ways to die.

Leaked documents compiled by immigration workers and obtained by 7.30 reveal a shocking spate of recent self-harm incidents. One incident report from June 2018 says a 14-year-old refugee child "had poured petrol over herself and had a lighter".

A further report from June shows a 10-year-old refugee "attempted to self-harm by ingesting some sharp metal objects".

The metal objects were consistent with fencing wire, the report said.

"Am I concerned that children could die in Nauru, that some of these refugee children could die? I'm absolutely concerned about that. I'm reasonably surprised that no-one has," said Dr Vernon Reynolds, a former child psychiatrist on the island employed by the Australian Government's contractor, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS).

The Australian Government said the healthcare of refugees on Nauru is a matter for the Government of Nauru.

27 August 2018

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-27/refugee-children-on-nauru-googling-how-to-kill-themselves/10153568>

## **Suspected asylum seekers found in Queensland spark warnings of exodus from Vietnam**

Vietnamese community leaders fear a group of suspected asylum seekers found in Queensland are part of a potential flood of people fleeing human rights abuses and state seizure of their land in Vietnam.

Most of the 17 Vietnamese have been taken to Christmas Island for processing by immigration authorities and are eventually expected to be deported back to Vietnam, after their fishing boat washed ashore in Far North Queensland on Sunday

August 29, 2018

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-29/fears-suspected-asylum-seekers-part-of-flood-from-vietnam/10179322>

## **Peter Dutton Will Help Au Pairs, But Not These People Who Need Help**

Home Affairs minister Peter Dutton personally intervened to save three young au pairs from deportation, using his ministerial powers to quickly grant them visas.

Meanwhile, hundreds of asylum seekers remain on Manus Island and Nauru with no hope of resettlement, the most prominent victims of Australia's hard-line immigration policy -- a policy that has repeatedly ignored other pleas to save asylum seekers from deportation.

29 August 2018

<https://tendaily.com.au/views/a180829lhk/peter-dutton-will-help-au-pairs-but-not-these-people-who-need-help-20180829>

## **NZ offer to take Nauru refugees still on the table**

Labor Immigration spokesman Shayne Neumann has said Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton had no excuses for refusing to accept New Zealand's "generous" offer to close the back door to Australia for refugees.

In a press release which made no reference to Immigration Minister David Coleman, Mr Neumann said he had written to Mr Dutton and Mr Morrison, urging them to accept New Zealand's offer so that eligible refugees on Manus Island and Nauru could be resettled as quickly as possible.

Australia has so far rejected the NZ Prime Minister's offer, saying it could allow refugees to eventually make their way to Australia if they gained New Zealand citizenship.

But NZ Foreign Minister Winston Peters said New Zealand could pass laws to ensure refugees from Nauru never came to Australia, if that was the issue preventing Australia from taking up Jacinda Ardern's offer of accepting 150 refugees from Nauru.

4 SEPTEMBER 2018

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/nz-offer-to-take-nauru-refugees-still-on-the-table/news-story/23472ed90d83d3bce563d230db2e36ba>

## **Nauru blocks transfer of mentally ill refugee to Australia despite Federal Court order**

The Government of Nauru has blocked the medical evacuation of a refugee needing urgent treatment for depression and trauma-related conditions, despite court orders stipulating she must be brought to Australia for treatment.

An urgent Federal Court hearing this evening was told the failure to transfer the woman to Australia left Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton and the Commonwealth in breach of court orders made on Monday.

The court heard Nauru's secretary for Multicultural Affairs refused to grant approval for the refugee and her brother to be transferred via air ambulance, because she was "just not convinced" it was a medical emergency.

The lawyer acting for the Federal Government said the Commonwealth was working very hard to comply with the orders, in what was a sensitive diplomatic matter.

5 September 2018

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-05/nauru-blocks-transfer-of-mentally-ill-refugee-to-australia/10205040>

## **Nauru detention centre staff told they could lose jobs for talking about refugees**

Australian employees of the company that runs the immigration centre on Nauru say they have been threatened with their jobs if they speak to journalists during the Pacific Islands Forum about what happens inside the island's offshore processing regime.

In a leaked recording of a Canstruct meeting, employees are told they can talk about fishing, or give directions, but should be wary of journalists asking apparently innocent questions about the weather before "they might just then slip in a question about ... the processing centre".

Canstruct International is the Brisbane company that runs the processing centre under contract from the Australian government.

Journalists trying to write stories on Nauru during the Pacific Islands Forum have faced draconian restrictions: they can only travel around the island accompanied by security, and pursue stories after getting approval from the government.

New Zealand journalist Barbara Dreaver was interviewed by police and had her forum accreditation withdrawn after independently speaking with refugees. After outcry she has had her accreditation reinstated.

6 September 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/06/nauru-detention-centre-staff-told-they-could-lose-jobs-for-talking-about-refugees>

## **Australia is reported to UN human rights council over illegal detention of asylum seekers**

United Nations body has condemned Australia's arbitrary detention of three asylum seekers, one of whom has been held without charge or trial for nearly nine years.

The UN working group on arbitrary detention – which reports to the human rights council, on which Australia sits – said in its annual report it was concerned by “the rising prevalence of deprivation of liberty of immigrants and asylum seekers” worldwide and “the growing use of detention in the context of migration”.

The report highlighted 94 cases of arbitrary detention from countries – democratic and otherwise – across the globe, including China, Libya, Israel, Pakistan, the US, Zimbabwe, Burundi and the Congo.

15 September 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/15/australia-is-reported-to-un-human-rights-council-over-illegal-detention-of-asylum-seekers>

## **'I think we both get it': Scott Morrison professes admiration for Trump**

Scott Morrison says he admires Donald Trump as a “very practical” leader “who’s not going to waste a day” in office, and has told an American newspaper he and the US president share an instinct to help those forgotten by the forces of globalisation.

“I think we both get it,” Morrison told the New York Times, of their common understanding

The deal obliged the US to consider for resettlement refugees sent by Australia to offshore processing centres on remote islands of Nauru and PNG's Manus Island.

Trump described the arrangement as a “dumb deal ... that will make us look awfully bad” but ultimately honoured the commitment brokered by his predecessor Barack Obama. The deal has seen several hundred refugees resettled so far.

17 September 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/17/i-think-we-both-get-it-scott-morrison-professes-admiration-for-trump>

## **'Humanitarian emergency': Doctors demand refugees be moved off Nauru**

The president of the Australian Medical Association has demanded the government urgently move refugee children and their families off Nauru, preferably to Australia.

"We have become increasingly aware of the significant health risks, both to their physical and mental wellbeing ... This situation will only end in tragedy if something is not done soon," Dr Tony Bartone told SBS News on Thursday.

Dr Bartone has sent a letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison asking the government to act immediately.

"Put bluntly, we want some urgent action to help these vulnerable people who find themselves in a hopeless, despairing situation," Dr Bartone wrote.

21 September 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/humanitarian-emergency-doctors-demand-refugees-be-moved-off-nauru>

## **Australia spent \$320,000 fighting requests for urgent medical transfers of asylum seekers**

The federal government spent more than \$320,000 in legal costs last financial year on challenging requests for urgent medical transfers of asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru and Manus Island.

The cost is likely to be far higher this year, with a growing number of critically ill people seeking the federal court's intervention after officials refuse recommendations from doctors to bring them to Australia.

In many cases doctors have repeatedly recommended transfers for patient, sometimes for months or years, only for the recommendations to go unheeded by governing authorities, including both the Australian and Nauruan governments, until a federal court order for a medical transfer can be obtained.

In responding to questions on notice to the Senate last month, the department of home affairs revealed it had incurred \$326,012 in legal costs in responding to those court proceedings.

More than 180 charities and organisations, including World Vision, the Australian Council for International Development, the Refugee Council of Australia and the Australian Lawyers Alliance, are now petitioning the government, giving it until 20 November – Universal Children's Day – to have families transferred to Australia or another safe third country.

29 September 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/sep/29/australia-spent-320000-fighting-requests-for-urgent-medical-transfers-of-asylum-seekers>

## **'They conspired against us': Nauru government accuses MSF of activism**

The Nauruan government has accused Médecins Sans Frontières of conspiring against it and entering the country under the guise of healthcare in order to engage in political activism.

The lengthy and vitriolic statement, released on Friday afternoon, came in response to a press conference held by MSF on Thursday after it was abruptly kicked off the island by the Nauru government.

MSF called for the immediate evacuation of all asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru and a permanent end to Australia's offshore processing policy. It also described a difficult working relationship with the Nauru government despite having been invited there late last year.

"Although MSF claimed to be a partner to Nauru and the Nauruan people, instead of working with us, they conspired against us," the Nauruan government said.

12 October 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/12/they-conspired-against-us-nauru-government-accuses-msf-of-activism>

## **Kerryn Phelps urges Wentworth voters to use byelection to protest 'inhumane' refugee policies**

Kerryn Phelps says she is "ashamed" of Australia's refugee policies and urged like-minded voters in Wentworth to use the unique opportunity of the byelection to protest Australia's "inhumane" offshore detention regime.

The independent candidate for Wentworth was speaking at a forum at Waverley College on Sunday afternoon, organised by the group Wentworth for Refugees, and attended by about 300 people. The forum was notable for the absence of both the Liberal candidate, Dave Sharma, and the Labor candidate, Tim Murray.

Both major parties support offshore detention and their candidates have avoided detailed questions about the increasingly dire reports about the mental health of children on Nauru.

14 October 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/14/kerryn-phelps-urges-wentworth-voters-to-use-byelection-to-protest-inhumane-refugee-policies>

## **6,000 doctors sign letter to PM demanding children be taken off Nauru**

Australian doctors are ramping up their campaign to have children in detention immediately removed from Nauru.

Australian Medical Association paediatric representative Dr Paul Bauert, who has treated patients on Nauru, said it was an “unconscionable” situation that could be easily avoided.

Health professionals are calling on the government to give the vulnerable children urgent support. “This is the only situation I’ve come across where it is deliberate government policy which is causing the pain and suffering of these children,” Bauert told reporters in Canberra on Monday.

15 October 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/15/almost-6000-doctors-sign-letter-to-pm-demanding-children-be-taken-off-nauru>

## **Iranian refugee on Manus Island violently assaulted**

An Iranian refugee on Manus Island was violently assaulted on Saturday, friends have said.

Manus Island police confirmed reports that a man had been admitted to Lorengau general hospital after an alleged attack, where he was in a stable condition and “able to talk”. He was expected to undergo x-rays.

Photographs posted to Twitter show the man with severe facial and head injuries. Behrouz Boochani, a refugee and journalist on the island, said the man was unconscious for several hours, and there were concerns he was not receiving appropriate medical care.

21 October 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/21/manus-island-refugee-reportedly-in-a-critical-condition-after-violent-assault>

## Politics Now: United States rejected 148 Nauru refugees

Border Force officials have confirmed the United States has rejected 148 refugees from Nauru.

Deputy Commissioner of Operations Mandy Newton told Senate Estimates there were currently 652 people on Nauru, including 541 who had been found by Australia to be refugees, 88 whose refugee status was yet to be determined, and 23 who had been found not to be genuine refugees.

Ms Newton said the asylum seeker population on Nauru included 52 children.

A further 27 people, including 11 children requiring medical treatment were transferred from Nauru today. Ms Newton said 276 asylum seekers had so far been accepted from Nauru by the US, with the approval of another 31 imminent pending medical checks.

23 October 2018

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/politicsnow-scott-morrison-faces-reality-of-minority-government/news-story/af63361c63922d5e59245af04c807c2e>

## Morrison, Dutton talk down NZ asylum deal

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has talked down the prospect of a deal with Labor over asylum seeker resettlement, stepping away from a proposal flagged during the Wentworth by-election. Labor is weighing up whether to back draft laws, introduced by the coalition two years ago but not passed, to place a lifetime ban on resettled asylum seekers being allowed to enter Australia.

Mr Morrison told reporters in Canberra on Tuesday resettling people in New Zealand had never been his preferred outcome.

It could undermine the deal struck with the United States and unwind tough border policies.

"You don't get children off Nauru by putting more children on Nauru through weaker border protection policies," Mr Morrison said.

24 October 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/morrison-dutton-talk-down-nz-asylum-deal>

## Dutton's department challenges federal court's authority to order Nauru transfers

The Australian government is challenging the legality of the federal court hearing applications for urgent medical transfers of refugees and asylum seekers held on Nauru.

The move comes amid a rush of transfers, and appears in contrast to claims made by Australian Border Force to those detainees that the delays are due to the Nauruan government.

Should the federal court action be successful it has the potential to void some previous orders, forcing those cases to refile in the high court. The rate of medical transfer orders has ratcheted up as the health crisis worsens, criticism of the policy strengthens, and the Nauruans appear to have stopped attempting to block departures. The home affairs department raised the jurisdictional challenge in a case involving a child detainee, her mother and two siblings, Fairfax Media reported.

26 October 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/26/duttons-department-challenges-federal-courts-authority-to-order-nauru-transfers>

## Life on Nauru is very pleasant, says Tony Abbott

Coalition conservatives have hit back at the push to clear refugee children from Nauru, describing it as a “very pleasant island” and arguing some children in Australia are worse off than those subject to offshore processing.

As Liberal moderates argue behind the scenes for refugee children to be brought from Nauru to Australia, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton warned any weakening of Australia’s border protection policies would see more children “attacked by sharks”.

Scott Morrison yesterday said the portrayal of Nauru by refugee advocates was offensive to Nauruans, while Tony Abbott declared children on Nauru are “very well looked after”.

“Nauru is no hellhole by any means. I’ve been there. If you like living in the tropics, it’s a very, very pleasant island,” Mr Abbott said.

30 October 2018

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration/life-on-nauru-is-very-pleasant-says-tony-abbott/news-story/ef85bf1c1466d2ad5fe64776c40598ff>

## Nauru detainees flown to South Australia: Refugee advocates

Asylum-seeker families are being quietly flown from Australia's offshore processing centre on Nauru to Adelaide, according to some advocates. Nauru Airlines does not fly commercially to Adelaide, but its planes have been seen at the airport as recently as Monday.

Activate Church pastor Brad Chilcott told SBS News he was aware of between four and seven families that had arrived in Adelaide from Nauru over the past four weeks. They were all families that included young children who needed urgent medical care and were now receiving it at

Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital, he said.

He said the government was still insisting all the families would be returned to Nauru once they were medically fit - but predicted doctors would be reluctant to sign off on returning patients to the Pacific island nation.

1 November October 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/nauru-detainees-flown-to-south-australia-refugee-advocates>

## **All refugee children to be removed from Nauru by year's end, former attorney general confirms**

THE Australian government is poised to move all children now held in immigration detention on Nauru to Australia by the end of the year.

Former attorney general, George Brandis, now the high commissioner in London, confirmed the plan in an interview with LBC radio.

"There are hardly any children on Nauru and in New Guinea and we expect that by the end of this year there will be none," Mr Brandis told LBC radio.

The plan appears to go some of the way in answering an Australia-wide community outcry for action to move children off Nauru, including campaigns spearheaded by charities, human rights groups, medical and legal organisations calling on the government to evacuate the children on Nauru to Australia or New Zealand.

1 November 2018

<http://catholicleader.com.au/news/all-refugee-children-to-be-removed-from-nauru-by-years-end-former-attorney-general-confirms>

## **Labor-era asylum seekers 'lose income support, face homelessness'**

Around 1,000 asylum seekers who came to Australia by boat have now lost income support payments and access to torture counselling after the latest round of Home Affairs "assessments", according to the Refugee Council.

The government has been gradually examining the cases of 'illegal maritime arrivals', who came under the previous Labor government, since it announced it would cut welfare payments for thousands of them in the 2017 Budget. The department claims it is only suspending payments to those with the capacity to support themselves. But from interviews with asylum seeker support groups, the Refugee Council says it has found extensive evidence of homelessness among those who have lost income support.

"It's undeniable. We know of people who are already couch-surfing, people staying in parks, living in each other's cars. It is, unfortunately, very much happening," the council's deputy director of policy Rebecca Eckard told SBS News.

1 November 2018

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/labor-era-asylum-seekers-lose-income-support-face-homelessness>

## **Nauru kids will never settle in Australia**

As sick asylum seeker children are quietly evacuated from Nauru, both major parties have confirmed any other families who try to enter Australia by boat will be sent to offshore detention. All asylum seeker children will be taken from Nauru by the end of this year but never allowed to settle permanently in Australia.

A number of families have already been transferred off the Pacific island and are reportedly being housed in Adelaide. Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton insists none of the children will ever call Australia home, even if they are found to be genuine refugees.

"That is the case and our policy hasn't changed," Mr Dutton told Sky News on Thursday. "We've said very clearly that we don't want boats to restart; people are not going to settle here permanently."

2 November 2018

<https://www.bluemountainsgazette.com.au/story/5736330/nauru-kids-will-never-settle-in-australia/?cs=9397>

## **300 Asylum seekers stopped**

About 300 asylum seekers were prevented from travelling to Australia by boat in the last 14 months, according to home affairs documents obtained under freedom of information laws. The federal government's Foreign Law Enforcement Agency taskforce, set up in 2013 as part of Operation Sovereign Borders, works with authorities in countries where people smugglers attempt voyages, such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Documents obtained by *Guardian Australia* revealed FLEA had conducted 78 operations to disrupt the movement of more than 2500 "potential illegal immigrants", the department's term for asylum seekers attempting to reach Australia by boat. About 14,000 refugees and asylum seekers currently live in Indonesia, about half of them from Afghanistan.

13 November 2018

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/thebriefing/2018/11/13>

## **Refugees driven to self-harm and suicide**

Refugees are increasingly being driven to self-harm and suicide by the continuing miserable conditions of Australia's offshore immigration detention system, a new report from Amnesty International and the Refugee Council of Australia has said. The report criticised cuts to health and counselling services, and the "heavily securitised" environment of the new accommodation, as well as the lack of protection for the more than 600 men still on Manus. Claire Mallinson, the national director of Amnesty International Australia, said the worsening health and safety on Manus demonstrated that Australia's offshore processing system had failed.

22 November 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/22/morning-mail-victorian-leaders-clash-rena-lawrence-returns-comic-trump>

## **Group of Manus Island refugees move to Nauru amid worsening health crisis**

A group of refugees have left Manus Island and are moving to Nauru while they wait for resettlement in a third country.

Guardian Australia has confirmed at least eight men were told they could transfer from the immigration facility on the Papua New Guinea Island to its equivalent in Nauru.

It is understood they departed on Thursday morning amid a worsening health crisis on Manus. On Friday the men will be given medical assessments and their refugee income support payments.

The transfers are voluntary, and one man said he didn't know if Nauru would be any better but after more than five years on Manus he needed some change.

29 November 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/29/group-of-manus-island-refugees-move-to-nauru-amid-worsening-health-crisis>

## **Refugee petition will be handed to PM**

Refugee advocates will deliver Scott Morrison and Bill Shorten a petition to remove the remaining asylum seeker children from Nauru.

As of Sunday, there were 12 refugee children remaining on the Pacific island.

Since the Kids off Nauru campaign was launched in August, almost 170,000 people have signed the petition, and it will be handed to the prime minister and the Labor leader in Canberra on Tuesday.

Advocates from World Vision, GetUp, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and the Refugee Council of Australia will be supported by three politicians at Parliament House.

Along with some former refugees, who now live in Australia, the advocates will be flanked by Greens Senator Nick McKim and independent MPs Kerryn Phelps and Andrew Wilkie.

27 November 2018

<https://www.9news.com.au/2018/11/27/03/33/refugee-petition-will-be-handed-to-pm>

## **The secret committee determining medical transfers from Nauru and Manus Island**

A secret Australian government body tasked with making decisions on medical transfers from Nauru discussed eradicating a longstanding requirement that medical care in offshore facilities must meet "Australian standards", according to internal documents.

The committee serves as a crucial decision-making body for considering transfers of asylum seekers and refugees seeking urgent medical care, and has met roughly once a month over an 18-month period.

The existence of the body has emerged at a critical time for the Government, as crossbench MP Kerryn Phelps flags a renewed push to permanently remove children from Nauru to Australia.

4 December 2018

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-04/secret-immigration-committee-medical-transfers-from-nauru-manus/10579072>

## **Australian refugee football player's future in balance despite lifting of Interpol red notice**

An Interpol red notice for Australian resident and Bahraini refugee Hakeem Al-Araibi has been lifted but Thai authorities are continuing to hold him in detention until they decide which country to allow to take him.

On Monday evening, a Thai court issued an order for Al-Araibi to be held in remand for up to 12 days, subject to renewal, while authorities determine whether he will be deported to Australia – where he lives as a permanent resident on a refugee visa – or to Bahrain, the country he fled after being allegedly tortured and beaten.

Bail was opposed.

4 December 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/04/australian-refugee-football-players-future-in-balance-despite-lifting-of-interpol-red-notice>

## **Australia subjected refugees to crimes against humanity, class actions allege**

The Australian government subjected asylum seekers and refugees to torture, crimes against humanity and the intentional infliction of harm in operating its offshore processing system, two class actions launched on Monday will allege.

The parallel cases, led by Julian Burnside QC and comprising human rights lawyers from the National Justice Project, have been filed in the high court of Australia, representing all the remaining refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, and on Nauru.

Australia has held people in detention or alternative accommodation on Nauru and Manus Island for more than five years. Twelve people have died during that time, including from suicide, untreated medical conditions and murder.

While Australia often claims the respective host countries are in control of arrangements, memorandums of understanding note that Australia is in charge of contracting and operations, and all associated costs.

10 December 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/10/australia-subjected-refugees-to-crimes-against-humanity-class-actions-allege>

## **Australian senator attends far-right rally in Melbourne as protesters perform Nazi salutes**

Major police operation to keep 'neo-Nazis, white nationalists and racial supremacists' and counter-protesters apart on St Kilda beach.

An Australian senator has been condemned for attending a far-right rally in Melbourne where protesters performed Nazi salutes.

Fraser Anning, who once called for a "final solution" to immigration, claimed "good Australians" were behind the rally.

The Queensland representative told local media that protesters were opposing an "African gangs crisis" and added: "If I was in charge I would stop any further Muslim immigration or immigration from North Africa. These guys don't fit in with our society."

When asked if he supported racist White Australia policies, Mr Anning claimed he supported a "predominantly European policy" to prevent "fake refugees" bringing "Sharia law" to the country.

Protesters chanted anti-immigration slogans and shouted abuse at counter-protesters, including homophobic slurs.

Organiser Neil Erikson, who has been convicted for inciting hatred against Muslims, claimed the protest was against “uncivilized gangs” committing crime in Melbourne.

5 January 2019

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/far-right-rally-australia-nazi-salutes-racism-melbourne-senator-st-kilda-anning-a8713021.html>

## **Three children remain in limbo on Nauru, but hundreds of adults still await resettlement**

The Morrison government is close to achieving its goal of taking all refugee children off Nauru, with just two families in still limbo on the island - but hundreds of adults remain without a place to resettle.

Of the 222 minors who were on Nauru at its peak in 2014, only seven remain. Four have been accepted for resettlement in the United States, along with their families, leaving only three children from two families.

More than 100 children and their families have come to Australia from Nauru in the past four months. However, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has maintained these refugees will not settle permanently in Australia. In October, Mr Dutton told Parliament there were 13 children on Nauru from families where an adult had received an adverse security assessment by US authorities. Government sources confirmed about 450 people remained in Nauru, and about 600 in PNG, on Tuesday. The majority of those were refugees awaiting resettlement, though a minority were failed asylum seekers.

8 January 2019

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/three-children-remain-in-limbo-on-nauru-but-hundreds-of-adults-still-await-resettlement-20190108-p50q5n.html>