

## **‘The Southern Cross’ – March 2017**

### **No short-term solution to temporary migration**

When author and social commentator Peter Mares addressed a Justice for Refugees SA gathering during Adelaide’s Writers Week he highlighted Australia’s changing landscape of refugees and people seeking asylum as part of a growing culture of temporary migration.

Mares, an award-winning journalist, independent researcher and former ABC correspondent and presenter spoke of his latest publication, ‘Not Quite Australian’, outlining Australia’s history of migration, our highly politicised asylum-seeker policies and forecasted that a future wave of arrivals will be ‘climate refugees’.

On the topic of government policies Mares argues that that it makes no sense to spend billions of dollars on a temporary protection visa system and detention centres but refugee advocates have to accept that in order to support the 30,000 refugees in Australia, there has to be a “trade off” and while not endorsing boat turn backs they are a reality.

“There are no ideal ways to treat this problem which will exist as long as there is war, inequality and borders but we can respond morally by treating others as we would have them treat you and in a utilitarian way that reduces pain and suffering”, said Mares.

Justice for Refugees SA invites supporters to join the Palm Sunday Rally, April 9 – 2pm Victoria Square, Adelaide. For further information [www.justiceforrefugeessa.org](http://www.justiceforrefugeessa.org)

John Haren  
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