

To: **The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, The Hon Tony Burke MP**

**BACK YOUR
NEIGHBOUR**

Stand up for our neighbours, friends and local communities

Campaign created by **Back Your Neighbour**

Back Your Neighbour is a coalition of Australian local councils, community services, unions and individuals who support people seeking asylum and refugees. It is auspiced by the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum.

We are calling on the Federal Government to:

1. Provide everyone with a valid visa with work and study rights.
2. Expand the Status Resolution Support Services program criteria and simplify the application process so that people in need can access affordable health care and other essential services.
3. Ensure a timely and fair application and review for all people applying for refugee protection.
4. Provide people who have been refused a visa to stay in Australia, with a fair review.
5. Continue to clear the backlog of applications and appeals.
6. Provide citizenship opportunities for all people seeking protection from war and conflict.

Why is this important?

Right now, Australia continues to deny a fast and fair process to people who are seeking asylum in our country. Many have been in limbo for over a decade. This prevents people from gaining the stability that refugee status provides. The result is vulnerable people living on the edge for years.

Many people seeking asylum and living in the community are also denied access to basic support, including healthcare, housing, education, emergency relief and disability support. This leaves individuals and families with nothing to survive on, except for unfunded support from charities and local governments who are stepping in to help.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to support people meet basic needs and live safely in Australia until their status is resolved. Australians support each other in hard times and we are asking the Federal Government to play its part in creating a community where we are all respected. We must act now in support of our neighbours, friends and local community members who urgently need certainty, stability and support to build their lives.

Join our campaign at backyourneighbour.com.au. Thank you for your compassion and support.

Scan collected signatures and email to contact@backyourneighbour.com.au.

Name	Email	Postcode	Phone
John Smith	john@smith.com	2000	0412374839

Important - don't forget to enter your new signatures on your petition page. You can do this at <http://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/support-people-seeking-asylum-and-refugees/manage/offline>

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