A better way for people seeking asylum
Australia says "Welcome"
Close detention camps, create a safe pathway

People seeking asylum have been an asset to Australia for generations and they can help make our country stronger than it has ever been. Closing the offshore detention camps will let us save money, while creating a safe way for people to seek asylum in Australia and helping 50,000 people per year

The number of people seeking asylum worldwide is at crisis levels as war and persecution force more people to leave their homes than ever before. The current approach by the Australian government, including turning boats back to Indonesia and detaining people in cruel camps on Nauru and Manus Island is at a stalemate with people continuing to languish in detention with no meaningful prospects of resettlement. The Australian Labor Party offers no genuine alternative to the government as they are committed to maintaining offshore processing and boat turn-backs.

The Australian Greens offer a unique proactive alternative for the fair and efficient assessment and resettlement of people seeking asylum which ensures they are treated with respect and dignity and integrated into our community. Importantly, the Australian Greens policy will ensure that people's safety is paramount. By increasing our humanitarian intake and adequately funding organisations in the region, the Australian Greens will create a fair system whereby people's claims are processed efficiently and they are flown to Australia from Malaysia and Indonesia. People will no longer face the impossible choice of getting on a leaky boat.
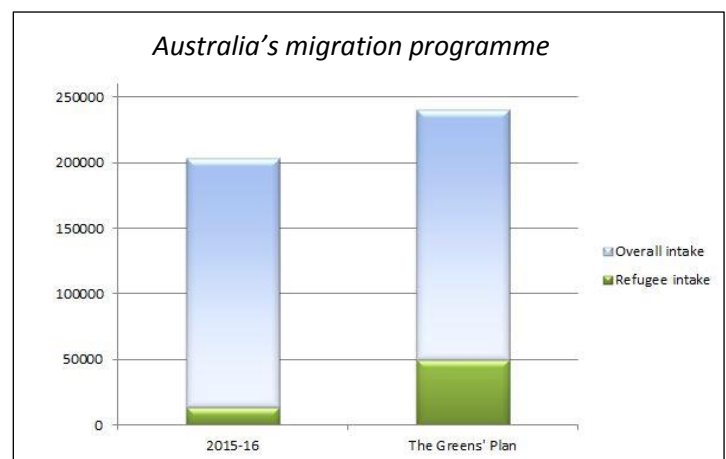
> A BETTER WAY

The Australian Greens will –

- Increase the number of people Australia helps from 13,750 to 50,000 per year – including 40,000 people under the humanitarian intake and an additional 10,000 people brought in under a new 'Skilled Refugee' programme.
- Provide $500 million over four years to support organisations in our region in establishing a system that can assess people's claims for protection in Indonesia and Malaysia in a timely fashion and provide

a 'dignity package' for refugees while they are waiting (including access to healthcare, education, English classes and work permits).
- Release all children from detention, including those on Nauru, immediately.
- Establish a Royal Commission into children in detention.
- Close the off-shore detention camps on Manus Island and Nauru.
- Abolish the Australian Border Force and restore their function to the Immigration Department.
- Abolish Temporary Protection Visas and reintroduce Permanent Protection for all applicants.

> OVERALL MIGRATION

This year, under the Liberal Government's policies, 203,750 people will migrate to Australia permanently, but less than 7% of them will be refugees. Under the Greens' plan overall migration will increase to 230,000 people and refugees will make up more than 20% of that overall intake.

Australia's migration programme

> BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Costing by the Parliamentary Budget Office indicates that shutting down Manus Island and Nauru wouldsave $2.9 billion over the forward estimates.[1] These savings will be reinvested into a fairer system that helps more people.

> BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND OUR ECONOMY

The Liberal and Labor Parties support locking children in offshore detention camps, towing people back to danger on the high seas and subjecting families to mandatory, indefinite detention in Australia.

Those who are in need should have their claims for asylum assessed and then be resettled in Australia so that they can be integrated into our community and live in safety.

People seeking asylum have a lot to contribute to Australia and we will offer 10,000 'Skilled Refugee' visas per year from the places currently being offered under the permanent skilled migration scheme. By doing this we can offer protection to more people than ever before while also recognising that refugees contribute to our communities and are often highly skilled, entrepreneurial people.

[1] Beginning 1 July 2016