



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC17-081176

21 NOV 2017

Ms Anne Hywood
General Secretary
Anglican Church of Australia
Suite 4, Level 5, 189 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hywood

Thank you for your letter dated 21 September 2017 regarding Australia's border protection policies.

Although these policies are tough, they are necessary to protect Australia's borders, stamp out people smuggling and prevent people risking their lives at sea. The policies also create confidence in the integrity of, and support for, our generous humanitarian program.

Further, they have enabled the Commonwealth Government to reach a one-off agreement with the United States to settle refugees currently in regional processing centres. The priority will be those who are most vulnerable, namely women, children and families. It will be administered by United States authorities with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It would not have been possible if people smugglers were attempting to send thousands of people to Australia.

Refugees in Nauru and Papua New Guinea (PNG) also have a range of other resettlement alternatives. Nauru determined refugees may remain in Nauru for up to 20 years, settle in Cambodia, or move to a country they have the right to reside in. Persons determined by PNG to be refugees may settle in PNG, volunteer to move to Nauru to await third country resettlement, or move to a country they have the right to reside in. Those who have been found not to be refugees are expected to return to their home country or another country they have the right to reside in.

I thank you again for writing on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Turnbull", with a small mark at the end.

MALCOLM TURNBULL