



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI (NSW)**

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Mr B Baird
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Baird

I am writing on behalf of the Social Justice Committee of the Conference of Leaders of Catholic Religious Institutes working in NSW, which represents about 4000 religious men and women, their co-workers and associates.

On behalf of our members I would like to offer to you our support, for the recent decision you took in opposing Australia's abandonment of our responsibilities as international citizen, who acts with justice and compassion towards vulnerable people who come to our country seeking assistance.

As you stated in your speech in the House on May 11th, *What we are dealing with in the Migration Amendment Bill is how this country treats the disposed that come to our shores from various parts of the world. We need to use our power for those who have no power and use our influence for those who have no influence. There is a danger that as a nation we loose our soul.* These sentiments have a strong echo in the minds and hearts of many Australian citizens. Thank you for expressing their concerns so powerfully. It has been pleasing to note that the sort of concerns you and others expressed were taken up and reported in the press around the world, in papers as diverse as the New York Times and the Northern Ghanaian Times (noted in an email from a friend living in Ghana).

On behalf of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, thank you for confirming that seeking justice, and showing compassion for the disadvantaged is not a form of weakness.

Yours faithfully

Br P S Cram
20th August 2006.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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