

CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES IN NSW



Member of Catholic Church Religious Group
ABN 52 476 362 010

11th August, 2008

Senator the Hon. Christopher Evans,
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship,
P.O. Box 1322
West Perth – WA – 6872

Dear Senator Evans,

I write on behalf of the Social Justice committee within the NSW Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes. CLRI (NSW) represents approximately 3,500 Catholic religious, men and women, throughout the state, as well as many people working in organisations run by religious institutes.

I would like to congratulate you on the manner in which you have taken up your role as Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. In such a short time you have achieved much in the area of processing of refugee claims and changes in the culture of the immigration department are very evident.

The abolishing of the Temporary Protection Visa is a long-awaited development in immigration policy. It is heartening to know that people with a legitimate claim to Australia's protection are given permanent protection quickly and permitted to get on with their lives.

Your address to ANU announcing fundamental reform of the detention system is further important evidence of your determination to put an end to inhumane treatment of those seeking asylum on our shores. Your address made clear that principles and values should underpin policy and that the dignity of the human person is non-negotiable. I am sure you have given much thought to consequences and how those released into the community will fare. Here I refer to concern in the community about the Bridging Visa, in particular when work rights are denied as is access to Centrelink.

With every best wish as you continue to improve the lot of our asylum seekers.

Yours sincerely,
Grace Ellul sm

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