

CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES IN NSW



Member of Catholic Church Religious Group
ABN 52 476 362 010

27th October, 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 have written previously expressing our appreciation for measures already taken by your government with regard to refugees and asylum seekers.

Media releases informed the Australian public that two boats run by people smugglers had been intercepted, one on 29th September and the other on 6th October. We are in agreement of course that everything should be done to deter people smuggling. But those who use this risky means as a last resort should be dealt with in as compassionate a way as possible – only those who are really desperate would embark on such voyages.

Stated Labor policy has assured us that claims to refugee status would be dealt with as quickly as reasonably possible. We are confident that these people who look to Australia for protection will have their cases resolved speedily and that their stay on Christmas Island will be a short one.

Once again, I thank you for all you have achieved in the short space of time you have been Minister.

Yours sincerely,

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SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 259 ROSEBERY NSW 1445

(72 Rosebery Ave)

Phone: (02) 9663 2199 Email: clrinsw@ozemail.com.au Website: www.clrinsw.org

