



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

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

1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009.

[This letter was also sent to Senators Xenophon, Fielding, Troeth, Eggleston, Birmingham and Payne.](#)

Senator Sue Boyce,  
P.O. Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Boyce,

I write on behalf of the NSW Justice Committee of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes CLRI(NSW). CLRI(NSW) represents approximately 3,500 members and their associates in NSW. The Justice Committee is responsible for research, resourcing, reflection, advocacy and action in the areas of justice, peace, the environment, education and human rights.

Many members of religious congregations work in refugee support networks. We were very happy to hear the Government's announcement regarding an amendment to the Migration Regulations which would abolish the '45-day rule'. Senator, we would like to ask you to support the Migration Amendment Regulation 2009 (No. 6), Select Legislative Instrument 2009 No. 143.

Our members have accompanied refugees and asylum seekers, among others, who failed to make their application within 45 days of their arrival in Australia, many through no fault of their own but because they had been misinformed or because they were not aware of the regulation. We are firmly convinced that these people should not be penalized because of failure to apply within 45 days.

We are aware of very many situations of hardship. When people are not allowed work rights they are condemned to depend on charity and, for most, this is very humiliating. It is also an unnecessary burden on charitable organizations who are called on to give financial support to such an extent that they are unable to attend to all needs. People seeking asylum or refugee status in Australia are people who want to work to support themselves and their families, but the 45-day rule condemns them to approach various organizations to ask for food vouchers or provisions. They are never guaranteed that they will be able to meet their basic needs from one week to the next and live the anxiety and depression that this involves.

The denial of access to health care is another factor that adds to the anxiety these applicants endure. Many are in grave need of medical assistance but are unable to afford it. The 45-day rule is an inhumane rule which impacts on people who have survived trauma and are so vulnerable.

We trust that you will consider our submission.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Ellul sm

**PO Box 259, ROSEBERY 1445**  
(72 Rosebery Avenue)

**Ph: (02) 9663 2199 Email: [clrinsw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:clrinsw@ozemail.com.au) Website: [www.clrinsw.org](http://www.clrinsw.org)**