



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

Prophetic. Pro-Active. Prayerful.

8<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

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. I would like to further commend you on the introduction of the amendments to the Migration Act that will make the granting of Complementary Protection possible. Many members of our Institutes are involved in direct refugee support and we come across many applicants whose case does not fit the Refugee Convention but who do have claims on Australia's protection. We are pleased that complementary protection will enable the Department of Immigration to grant protection taking into consideration the Torture Convention and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

It is right that Australia be able to put into practice its values by giving protection to those who are at risk to being treated in a cruel and inhuman manner or be subjected to degrading and humiliating treatment.

We continue to be concerned, however, about those who are stateless. It seems they are excluded from the possibility of complementary protection. From cases we have worked with we regret that this is the case. They make up a very small number and they are people who are condemned to live in a permanent limbo.

I do not want this concern to take away from the affirmation expressed above. We will continue monitoring progress of the Bill and advocate with opposition and independent members. Once again, I thank you for all you have achieved in your time as Minister.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Ellul sm

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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