

ASYLUM SEEKERS AND IMMIGRATION

Position:

- FAMILY FIRST supports a strong system of border protection, to determine who comes to Australia and who does not. But it has to be a fair system;
- FAMILY FIRST believes migrants and refugees have made a positive and enriching contribution to the Australia's development and will continue to have a positive impact on our society's growth and prosperity;
- FAMILY FIRST recognises and supports Australia's international and humanitarian commitments in regard to asylum seekers while also advancing the need to protect Australia's borders from illegal immigration;
- FAMILY FIRST recognises that many asylum seekers wait for many years in refugee camps and believes in strengthening international and Australian agencies and institutions charged with the responsibility of managing and processing the flow of displaced peoples so refugees may be resettled more quickly;
- FAMILY FIRST also recognises the importance of ensuring well managed immigration programs that, while supporting Australia's interests, are also compassionate and supportive of families.

Actions:

- FAMILY FIRST supports measures to encourage countries in our region to become signatories to the Refugee Convention, to discourage the secondary movement of asylum seekers, to curb the criminal and exploitative activity of people smuggling and to share the load more equitably among nations;
- FAMILY FIRST believes all unauthorized arrivals and asylum seekers should be detained in secure centres to assess health, identity and security issues;

- FAMILY FIRST supports providing additional resources to ensure detention time is kept to an absolute minimum. Asylum seekers should then be transferred to low security facilities that are more like a home than a prison until their claims can be fully processed;
- FAMILY FIRST believes the claims assessment process should be reformed to ensure fast and fair processing of asylum seekers to promptly determine the substance of their claims for refugee status;
- FAMILY FIRST supports the position that applicants not eligible to remain in Australia should be deported as soon as is practicable. But FAMILY FIRST believes deportation rules should be relaxed for those who have suffered long periods of detention and uncertainty.