




2019 Election Policy Comparison

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The permanent end to offshore processing

Our Platform for Change	 Liberal and National Party	 Australian Labor Party	 The Greens
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing all Australian-funded offshore detention, processing and transit facilities.• Bringing all people trapped on Nauru and PNG to safety in Australia• Ensuring all asylum applications are assessed fairly and quickly• Giving recognised refugees permanent protection.• Legislating to bar future Australian Governments from enacting offshore processing and detention.	<p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain the policy of offshore processing• Opposed the transfer of people offshore to Australia for medical purposes• Maintain the policy of boat turnbacks	<p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain the policy of offshore processing• Will not bring people from offshore processing to Australia• Maintain the policy of boat turnbacks <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept New Zealand's offer to resettle 150 refugees• Negotiate resettlement to other third countries	<p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• End offshore detention on Manus Island and Nauru• Bring every person detained on Manus Island and Nauru to Australia• End the policy of boat turnbacks

A fair process for claiming asylum

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Our Platform for Change

- Repealing fast-tracking and restoring a single statutory Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process with full access to independent review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)
- Providing a rigorous independent, merit-based appointment and re-appointment process for Members of the AAT (Migration and Refugee Division) and a minimum term of five years to avoid political influence and interference.
- Reinstating reference to the Refugee Convention in the Migration Act and repealing the provision (section 197C) that obligates the removal of a person from Australia irrespective of Australia's international protection obligations (non-refoulement obligations, section 197C).
- Repealing temporary protection and restoring permanent protection.
- Restoring government funding for appropriate legal assistance and advice for people seeking asylum.
- Ensuring access to income support, basic health care and work rights for all people seeking asylum.
- Granting people seeking asylum access to mental health supports available to resettled refugees and others in the community and the right to send remittances without fear of losing support.



Liberal and National Party

Negative:

- Maintain the current Fast-Track assessment process and the Immigration Assessment Authority
- Maintain the current policy of TPVs and SHEVs



Australian Labor Party

Positive:

- Abolish TPVs and SHEVs and transition eligible refugees onto permanent visa arrangements
- People seeking asylum will have means-tested access to funded migration assistance, and to appropriate social services, including income, crisis housing, healthcare, mental health, community, education and English as a Second Language support during the assessment of the claim for protection
- Supports the existing definition of 'serious harm' and 'persecution' including the current risk threshold of the 'real chance test'
- The assessment and review of protection claims will be underpinned by robust, efficient and transparent processes that ensure fair and consistent outcomes, including access to review and independent advice



The Greens

Positive:

- Provide fair support for people seeking asylum to live with dignity in the community
- People seeking asylum to have work rights, access to social security, legal representation, interpreters, health care, case management, and appropriate education for the duration of their assessment
- Provide SRSS payments at the same rate as Newstart
- Abolish Temporary Protection Visas and reintroduce Permanent Protection Visas for refugees
- Training of immigration decision-makers to enable them to properly assess claims for family reunion or refugee status based on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status

A fair process for claiming asylum (cont.)

Our Platform for Change



Liberal and National Party



Australian Labor Party



The Greens

- The assessment and review of protection claims of specific lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer asylum seekers will be underpinned by appropriate and relevant assessment tools and processes that reflect cultural experiences of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer community
- The assessment and review of protection claims must be independent and free from any political or diplomatic interference
- Reinstate the Refugee Review Tribunal and abolish the Fast-Track Process and Immigration Assessment Authority
- The processing of protection claims must be streamlined to enhance the quality of decision making, to provide more efficient pathways for prompt resolution of visa status and to alleviate the courts' immigration case-load burden

- Any appointment to tribunals to be independently made in accordance with a predefined formula of civil society representation and legal expertise
- Assessment of applications for asylum completed in a timely and transparent manner

A fair process for claiming asylum (cont.)

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Our Platform for Change	 Liberal and National Party	 Australian Labor Party	 The Greens
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Stone Review process will be maintained as an important mechanism for ensuring the fairness of Australia's security assessment system• Reintroduce the 90 day rule into the Migration Act, which requires that refugee status determinations are concluded within 90 days from the time of application• Reintroduce the appropriate references to the Refugee Convention into the Migration Act 1958• Ensure asylum seekers have access to appropriate, independent, government funded legal advice while working through their claims for protection	

Reform of the immigration detention system

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Our Platform for Change

- Repealing the mandatory detention provisions in the Migration Act.
- Stipulating in law maximum time limits on immigration detention.
- Codifying in law the prohibition of the detention of children.
- Regulating the criteria for immigration detention.
- Including in law the independent and judicial review of detention, to take place immediately when a person is detained and at regular intervals afterwards.
- Including in regulations and law the public scrutiny by independent monitoring bodies.
- Ensuring that all people have access to merits and judicial review of adverse security assessments.



Liberal and National Party

Negative:

- Maintain the current policy of mandatory indefinite detention

Positive:

- Removed all children seeking asylum from onshore and offshore detention (but has not legislated to ensure that children cannot be detained)



Australian Labor Party

Negative:

- Maintain the policy of mandatory detention, including children

Positive:

- Strive to ensure that mandatory detention is for no longer than 90 days
- As soon as the reasons for mandatory detention have ceased every effort must be made to remove asylum seekers from immigration detention centres through community detention or the granting of bridging visas with work rights
- Appoint an independent children's advocate to represent the interests of children seeking asylum and legislating to impose mandatory reporting of child abuse



The Greens

Positive:

- Introduce a 7-day limit for onshore detention
- Introduce an independent inspectorate for all of Australia's detention centres
- Introduce a Royal Commission into Australia's immigration detention facilities

A larger and more responsive Refugee and Humanitarian Program

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Our Platform for Change

- The Refugee and Humanitarian Program (RHP) increasing in size in response to growing global need, and being strategically used as a lever to improve protection for those who are not resettled, especially in our region.
- Promoting family reunion of refugees through the inclusion of a separate stream of humanitarian family reunion in the Migration Program.
- Enhancing public support for the Refugee Program by replacing the Community Support Program with a larger community-based private sponsorship program. Replacing the high-cost and restrictive Community Support Program with a separate and additional private sponsorship program for refugees based on the best aspects of the Canadian model, creating opportunities for broad-based community networks to get involved in raising funds and offering support to build a private sponsorship program of 10,000 places annually within five years.
- Restoring the Refugee and Humanitarian Program immediately to 20,000 and increasing the size of the Program to between 27,000 and 30,000 places annually within three years, and increasing each year in light of global needs.
- Increasing resettlement from Africa and most urgently resettling Rohingya refugees.
- Establishing an Emergency Response contingency quota to provide additional capacity to respond to urgent protection needs (such as the current crisis in Syria/Iraq).
- Establishing a pilot program to protect children at risk.
- Developing alternative pathways to protection through our Migration Program.



Liberal and National Party

Positive

- After cutting humanitarian program from 20,000 to 13,750 in 2013, increased program back to 18,750 in 2018-19
- With additional Syria/Iraq crisis response, program reached 21,968 places in 2016-17, a 35-year high

Negative

- Plan to maintain humanitarian program at 18,750 places annually
- Maintain the current Community Support Program at 1,000 places within the humanitarian program and with the current high fees



Australian Labor Party

Positive:

- Increase Australia's annual humanitarian intake to 27,000 per year by 2025
- Improve and expand Australia's community sponsored refugee resettlement program
- Progressively expand community sponsorship to 5,000 places in addition to the government's refugee and humanitarian program



The Greens

Positive:

- Increase Australia's humanitarian intake to 50,000 per year
- Delink onshore visa grants with the offshore humanitarian program
- Create a Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program of 10,000 in addition to the government's refugee and humanitarian program

Australia's improved engagement in Asia

I CHOOSE HUMANE.

Our Platform for Change



Liberal and National Party



Australian Labor Party



The Greens

- The early identification of causes of displacement in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Rebuilding after conflict and supporting the process of voluntary and safe repatriation of refugees when that becomes possible, viable and appropriate.
- Efforts to encourage host nations in the region to address the needs of refugees within their borders, particularly the need for safety, freedom from detention, legal status, the right to work and access to education and health programs.
- Continuing engagement in refugee resettlement from the region, working with other resettlement states (particularly New Zealand, Canada and USA) to focus on the protection of the most vulnerable and those with fewest options for durable solutions, while also using engagement in resettlement strategically to push for improved protection of refugees in host nations.
- Greater engagement with civil society across the region, encouraging governments to work with NGOs, refugee community networks, business and local leaders to work together on better answers for refugees, returnees and host communities.

Negative:

- Maintain Operation Sovereign Borders

Positive:

- work with South East Asian nations in the region and in particular with Indonesia to build a regional framework to improve the lives of asylum seekers.
- Give appropriate consideration to UNHCR refugee registrations to assist Indonesia and the UNHCR to work through the backlog.
- Provide \$450 million in funding over three years to support the important work of UNHCR both globally and in South East Asia and the Pacific
- Appoint a Special Envoy for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Issues

Negative:

- Continue and expand disruption activities in third countries

Positive:

- Establish a regional solution for people seeking asylum including assessing people's claims for protection in partner countries in a timely way
- Provide \$500 million over four years to support organisations like the UNHCR and partner countries in our region to establish a system that can assess people's claims for protection in Indonesia and Malaysia in a timely fashion

Sources:



Our Platform for Change:

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/platform-change/>

Liberal and National Party:

<https://www.liberal.org.au/our-plan/border-protection>

Australian Labor Party:

<https://www.alp.org.au/asylumseekers>

<https://www.alp.org.au/about/national-platform/>

The Greens:

<https://greens.org.au/policies/immigration-and-refugees>

<https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2018-12/Greens%202019%20Policy%20Platform%20-%20Refugees%20%26%20Asylum%20Seekers.pdf>