



January 2024

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASYLUM SEEKERS

Clare O'Neil MP  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Parliament House

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of Australian Quakers to express alarm at the appalling conditions facing a number of asylum seekers currently in Papua New Guinea. Sister Jane Keogh, who is in regular contact with these people to offer support, has advised us that around 50 asylum seekers and their partners and families are without electricity, food, transport and security since 22 November 2023. They are incurring significant physical and psychological stress. The Papua New Guinea government is no longer willing to assist them, and they are ultimately the responsibility of Australia which has set in place the policies and decisions about their lives.

We urge you to take immediate steps to ease the pain of these people who – in line with the Refugee Convention – sought protection from Australia as a result of fleeing from danger. Our members will continue to offer support where we can (especially via Sister Keogh).

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Henry".

Bruce Henry  
Presiding Clerk  
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

Cc: Senator James Paterson, Shadow Minister for Home Affairs; Senator Nick McKim, Greens Immigration and Citizenship Spokesperson; NCCA (National Council of Churches in Australia)