



8 September 2020

Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of Australian Quakers, I write in support of people in immigration detention. At our recent national conference, we called on the Australian Government to include all vulnerable people in the COVID-19 safety nets.

This is not the time for discrimination based on how long a person has been in Australia or how they arrived. Many of the people who are in this country for urgent medical care or are on bridging or temporary visas are facing unique and uncertain futures while also unable to access necessary medical care or financial support. The Government is uniquely placed to prevent further exclusion of an already marginalized group.

We share the concerns of the Refugee Council of Australia, medical experts and medical peak bodies that the crowded conditions of immigration detention facilities, including makeshift facilities within Australia, are putting people at high risk of COVID-19 infection.

Quakers believe that the Federal Government has a responsibility to provide support for those vulnerable people who are seeking the safety and peace of Australia. We urge you to release people currently held in immigration detention facilities into appropriate community arrangements, and ensure that they have:

- access to Medicare to protect themselves and those around them
- income support for those out of work including enabling those on Bridging Visas to access JobSeeker payments or changing eligibility requirements for Status Resolution Support Services payment while waiting for their asylum status
- visa security so people have access to vital services, including COVID-19 testing and treatment

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Zubrick".

Ann Zubrick
Presiding Clerk, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

Cc: Anthony Albanese, Leader of the Opposition

Australia Yearly Meeting

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