



5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Julia Banks (Ind)  
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**Dear Ms Banks**

Recently Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that the final four refugee children detained on Nauru would leave the island and be resettled in the US, ending five years of cruelty and inhumane treatment for hundreds of children.

While this is cause for celebration there are, as you know, still nearly a thousand people stuck on Nauru and Papua New Guinea, and they need to have their situation resolved. There is no justification for detaining people indefinitely in offshore detention in order to “keep our borders secure”. We are urging the government to accept New Zealand's offer to resettle 150 refugees to end this current policy which is cruel, inhumane, and shames us all.

The fact is that those in offshore detention are not getting adequate medical assistance, even as they wait for a resolution to their plight. The **Urgent Medical Treatment Bill** was introduced by independent MP Dr Kerryn Phelps. The government suggestion of an independent medical review panel will not see any difference to the current process, which has seen 12 people die in offshore detention in the past five years.

We urge you along with Labour members, the Greens, and Independents to #BackTheBill as proposed by Dr Kerryn Phelps in the *Urgent Medical Treatment Bill*. It is a human right to expect a country like Australia which is in a strong economic position to provide medical attention and immediate transfers of seriously ill refugees to Australia for treatment.

Yours sincerely,

*Gabrielle Fogarty*

*Agedo Bento O.Carm*  
*Gabrielle Fogarty*  
*Peter Thomas*  
*Paul Gurr O.Carm*

**Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission**  
**Carmelite Province of Australia & Timor-Leste**

*Copies were also sent to: Bill Shorten, Tanya Plibserssek, Shayne Neumann, (Lab)*  
*Cathy McGowan, (Ind) and Craig Laundry and Russell Broadbent (Lib)*