

Dear

Thank you for all you are doing at this time to ease the burdens on those suffering the impact of Covid 19. There is no doubt that it is hitting individuals and communities in ways we could never have imagined.

Those who are most vulnerable, of course, are suffering the most, and we are particularly concerned about the plight of refugees and those seeking asylum. For people like Sofia and her family, who have been forced to rely on others for limited accommodation, who have no financial support at this time, and who cannot even access organisations like Vinnies, the House of Welcome and Jesuit Refugee Services for food, the situation is becoming increasingly desperate.

It is on behalf of these people, M _____ that I am appealing to you.

We urge you, as a representative of our community, to use your power and influence to speak up – in the Party Room, and in the Parliament – to change the current policies in this country, and to work for what we claim as Australians is at the heart of our culture and spirit – a fair deal for all.

We have three specific asks of the Government:

- To provide **income support** and a **financial safety net** for all people seeking asylum in Australia
- To **end temporary protection visas** and create a clear pathway to **permanent residency**
- To ensure access to **family reunion** for refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia

In the long term, as the history of our country has proven, the support we offer now will result in significant long term benefits for Australia (cultural, material and economic), as well as in the commitment and gratitude of those who are given protection, justice and compassion now.

We urge you, M _____, to do what you can to speak out at this critical moment. We believe it would make a significant difference if you would raise our demands in the Party Room, ask a question in Question Time, speak to relevant ministers, or even make a statement in Parliament itself. I would really appreciate a reply from you, letting me know how you are able to support people seeking protection, whom we know, are some of the most vulnerable in our country today.

Thank you for all you are doing to contribute to a fair and just Australia. We hope that you will see this direction as a positive and life-giving step in this journey.

Yours sincerely and in hope,