The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull M.P.
Prime Minister

House of Representatives

Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Turnbull,

Your Government’s recent announcement that the 100 or so asylum seekers who initially came from Nauru and Manus Island to Australian for medical treatment will be required to vacate their government supported accommodation and have their $200 fortnightly income support stopped is, as the Human Rights Law Centre stated, “an act of shocking cruelty.”

Having kept 2000 people in a limbo of hopelessness and despair, for more than 3 years, the final crushing blow is to starve them into submission or return them to fend for themselves in a country with no rule of law, massive unemployment and a generally antagonistic population. For most of these asylum seekers returning to their countries of origin is to face imprisonment or death.

It is true the boats are stopped and deaths at sea are prevented, only to have people die a slow death from insecurity, anxiety, mental illness and hopelessness. And what of the children whose lives we have blighted forever?

Pope Francis, in a speech last year, commented that: *It is violence to erect walls and barriers to block those seeking a place of peace. It is violence to push back those fleeing from inhuman conditions in the hope of a better future.* There have been few points in Australia’s history where we have sunk so low as to visit further cruelties on vulnerable people who left their countries to escape violence, persecution and death.

If there is a spark of humanity or morality left in your government I ask that you review your current refugee policies through the lens of compassion and concern.

Yours sincerely