



Office of Hon Michael Woodhouse

Minister of Immigration
Minister of Police
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

26 OCT 2016

Mr Benedict Coyne
President
Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
president@alhr.org.au

Dear Mr Coyne

Thank you for your letter of 16 September 2016 regarding the resettlement of refugees from Nauru and Manus Islands.

I confirm that in June 2013, the New Zealand Government agreed that, from the 2014/15 financial year, up to 150 places would be offered annually to Australia to resettle refugees who had been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation. It is for Australia to take up the offer to utilise the up to 150 places; and to date they have not done so. As such, the places are reallocated within New Zealand's agreed annual refugee quota, and most recently the places have been used to resettle Syrian refugees.

New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme reflects the Government's commitment to fulfilling its international humanitarian responsibilities to provide protection and resettlement to priority cases referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR submits priority protection cases to New Zealand to consider for resettlement under the Refugee Quota Programme. As Minister of Immigration, I cannot select individuals for inclusion in New Zealand's refugee quota programme based on direct representations.

In 2002 New Zealand undertook a regional commitment by joining the Bali Process aimed at mitigating the world-wide people smuggling problem. The Government will continue to work closely with Australia and other countries in the region as well as international organisations as part of an ongoing effort aimed at combating people smuggling. New Zealand also continues to work with the UNHCR and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to find practical measures to prevent and deter people smuggling.

Thank you for writing to me.

Yours sincerely

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration