



22 November 2024

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT

Dear Committee Secretary,

**RE: Migration Amendment Bill 2024 [Provisions]**

The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council (the Society) welcomes the opportunity to prepare a submission on the Migration Amendment Bill 2024 [Provisions] for the Committee's consideration.

The Society comprises 45,000 members and volunteers and assists thousands of people every day across this country to meet their basic needs. As you are aware, people seeking asylum are a significant cohort of this group, with many struggling to survive without the basics such as food, shelter, and access to health services and work rights.

With respect to people seeking asylum, the Society is advised at the national level by its Vincentian Refugee Network, chaired by Dr Tim McKenna. The Society calls on the Committee to reject this Bill in its entirety.

The Society cannot support a Bill that wilfully separates families and disrupts the capacity of people to live peacefully in Australia and contribute to our communities.

We believe that the Government should not be given the power to cancel refugee status. Refugee status must be retained and the responsibility to give permanent protection honoured by Australia.

It is not acceptable that the Australian Government pay third countries to accept people Australia wishes to deport. This could be considered a form of people trafficking.

It goes against Australia's international obligations and responsibilities to expose refugees and people seeking asylum to the risk of being deported to countries where they face persecution, including people who have been through flawed and unfair legal processes.

We trust that you will do the right thing by those seeking asylum in Australia and reject this Bill.

Yours sincerely

Toby oConnor  
**Chief Executive Officer**