



## Justice and Compassion Webinar – 15 April 2025

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. We have a number of visa subclass 100 and 101 who have arrived in Australia recently. Among these are former female students from Afghan universities. Their 100 and 101 visas do not allow study support if they begin Australian studies beyond the age of 22. In effect Centrelink has no choice but to exclude these women from education and benefits. Would the SVdP take this issue up as a matter for advocacy?

A. One of our key asks under Rising to the Refugee Challenge is to fund an adequate safety net for all asylum seekers that includes giving people study rights.

We are advocating closely with other agencies including CAPSA, Jesuit Refugee Service, ACBC and the Refugee Council of Australia who share the same priorities. This helps to strengthen our advocacy voice.

Q. How are we currently advocating for fast-track asylum seekers still on bridging visas?

A. We are calling for a fairer process for all affected by the unjust fast track process.

See pp.29-30 of our Justice and Compassion booklet.

Q. How are we advocating for asylum seekers formerly on Nauru who are still on bridging visas? What are we saying about fast-track asylum seekers still on bridging visas and about asylum seekers now in Australia that were on Nauru for years?

A. We are calling for the resettlement of all people still subject to offshore processing and for people held in PNG and Nauru to be immediately moved to Australia while they await resettlement.

Just to clarify, resettlement of all people still subject to offshore processing includes particularly all people moved to Australia from PNG who still have no paths to resettlement. We are particularly concerned about the people who have been moved from PNG and Nauru to Australia but do not have a pathway to safe resettlement. Our advocacy includes recommending that they now be resettled permanently in Australia.

Q. We have companions who move into empty government apartments, no fridges or washing machines. What can be done to get complete housing without having companions calling on Vinnies for fridges and washing machines?

A. We understand that this is a common issue. While emergency relief may provide some assistance, we agree that it is inappropriate for government to simply provide a person with a roof over their head with no basic facilities. Some local solutions have been developed. For instance, Canberra-Goulburn has an arrangement with Goodies to source these essential items.

Q. With respect to housing, is it possible to see policy solutions that others have developed.

A. We work closely with National Shelter Australia and many of our calls for action align with their federal election statement. You can access their 2025 Policy Platform Priorities [here](#). We

also support calls made by Homelessness Australia. You can access their 2025 Election Statement, Fixing Australia's homelessness emergency [here](#).

Q. Some Government Parties are advocating for a reduction in refugee immigration because of the housing shortage.

A. Given the projected number of refugees across the world and, in agreement with Refugee Council of Australia's recommendations, we believe that the annual humanitarian refugee intake program should be increased. The numbers are not significantly larger (from 20,000 to 27,000) and are therefore not likely to make a significant difference to the housing shortage. Our Justice and Compassion booklet outlines what we think should be done to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Q. What representation does SVDP have at: State; Territory/ Federal levels to advocate and present these/ our policies?

A. Information on the Society's structure and governance is accessible on our website. [National Council](#) comprises State/Territory Presidents, a youth representative office bearers. National Council is advised by [National Council's Social Justice Advisory Committee](#) and the [Vincentian Refugee Network](#) and approves the Society's federal advocacy materials.