



Australian Federation of University Women Inc.

PO Box 224, Enmore NSW 2042

<http://www.afuw.org.au>

14 May 2008

Senator the Hon Chris Evans
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Evans,

In 2001, the Council of the Australian Federation passed a motion critical of the intolerable terms of the Temporary Protection Visas introduced for some refugees. We are therefore delighted by your announcement that the Government has decided to put an end to TPVs and would like to congratulate you on the decision. We are hopeful that one of the most oppressive of the restrictions, the barring of holders of TPVs from the family reunion program, will also disappear and that the Department will give priority to applications from former TPV holders, some of whom have waited years to be reunited with their families.

Since the same Council Resolution contained a clause calling for the processing of asylum seekers to 'be as expeditious as possible to ensure that the validity of refugee status can be established and refugees settled with the Australian community', we were also pleased when, prior to the 2007 election, the ALP promised that detention would only be for necessary health and security checks and would never be indefinite. We look therefore for a speedy release of those people who are still held in long term detention (periods of two and more years) and urge you to take action on their cases.

Finally, as the resolution also called for unauthorised asylum seekers to be processed within Australia, we would like to see the Government complete the process begun with the abandonment of detention in Nauru and reconsider its commitment to Christmas Island and excision,

Yours Sincerely

(Dr) Jennifer Strauss AM
President,
Australian Federation of University Women

