



The Hon Tony Abbott MHR
Leader of the Opposition

The Right Reverend John D Harrower OAM
Bishop of Tasmania
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30 AUG 2011

Dear Reverend Harrower

Thank you for your letter regarding the Coalition's border protection policies.

Labor has clearly lost control of our borders. This is a matter of deepening concern to most Australians. When John Howard's prime ministership ended, there were only four people in immigration detention in Australia who had arrived illegally by boat.

By contrast, more than 12,000 boat people have arrived since August 2008. That includes more than 5,000 on Julia Gillard's watch and the number of arrivals keeps increasing.

The \$292 million "five for one" people swap deal with Malaysia is an admission that Labor's border protection policies have failed. Furthermore, in the short period since the Malaysian agreement was signed, the boats keep coming.

Our policy is based on stopping the boats by depriving people smugglers of a product to sell. Any policy that continues to provide incentives to this business is neither consistent with reasonable expectations of rigorous border control nor compassionate.

The Coalition stopped the boats when in government and would stop them again. We would re-establish an orderly immigration and refugee settlement programme in which Australians can once again have confidence. Our policy includes three measures which, in combination, stopped the boats during the last Coalition Government. These are: offshore processing in Nauru; the use of Temporary Protection Visas; and the preparedness to turn away boats when it is safe to do so.

I invite you to stay up to date with Coalition news and policy announcements via the Liberal Party website www.liberal.org.au and to keep in touch via my personal website www.tonyabbott.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Abbott', with a long horizontal line above the first few letters.

TONY ABBOTT