

Asylum Seekers cost tax payers millions each year

The Federal Government has chosen a solution which involves processing asylum seeker boat arrivals in offshore, privately contracted, remote detention centres. This costs tax payers hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

There is an alternative that costs less, is more humane and benefits all Australians.

Offshore Detention Centres

Community Based Care¹

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\$973.6 million = 4 years running Christmas Island
540 years funding community based care²

There is an alternative

Community based care (after an initial security screening) costs tax payers less, has less detrimental impact on the mental health of asylum seekers and is more humane. The National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention found that children detained for long periods of time were at a high risk of suffering mental illness. The inquiry also found that the Australian government's refusal to implement these recommendations amounted to "...cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of those children in detention".³ This can be avoided with community based care.

¹ For every \$1 the Federal Government gives the Red Cross to care for community based asylum seekers, it will spend \$30.41 to keep asylum seekers in detention over the next 4 years.

² Federal Government May 2010 budget announcement compared to annual operating costs for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

³ ["A last resort? National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention"](#). Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission. 13 May 2004.