

## **Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

That the Synod,

- (i) Call on the Australian Government to respect human rights by
  - (a) enacting legislation to give effect to Australia's non-refoulement (non-removal) obligation under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Convention Against Torture to ensure that no one is forcibly returned to a country where they may face torture.
  - (b) restoring Permanent Protection Visas for people in Australia who are granted refugee status; and
  - (c) allowing asylum seekers on Bridging Visa Es and those released under Habeas Corpus orders to contribute to the Australian community through paid employment and to have access to government services including education, social security and Medicare.
- (ii) Encourage church members to write to the Minister for Immigration, the Prime Minister and their local MPs about these issues and to support activities aimed at providing church and community support for people living in Australia on bridging visas, especially the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation and the House of Welcome.