



13 February 2019

Dr K.L. Phelps MP  
Member for Wentworth  
PO Box 545  
Edgecliff NSW 2027

Dear Dr Phelps

I write on behalf of the Justice Committee of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA). CRA represents over 140 religious congregations across Australia with approximately 5,500 Catholic religious, women and men throughout the nation, as well as many thousands of people working in organisations run by religious institutes. Our members and their lay colleagues serve in education, health care and social services. We work with First Australians, refugees and asylum seekers, people struggling to survive on the margins of society and many others in need of assistance. Many members of CRA and their colleagues engage on a daily basis with refugees and asylum seekers.

We wish to congratulate you on your courageous decision to take up the cause to improve medical treatment to those refugees who continue to be held on Manus Island and Nauru. Your amendments to the Bill and subsequent demonstration of compassion, alongside clearly articulated 'messaging' gives hope to open-minded Australians who recognise our fundamental obligation to care for all members of the human family. You and your fellow cross-bench colleagues displayed considerable skill and graciousness in negotiating a pathway to assure the Bill's successful passage through the Lower House last evening.

We hope that you continue the work you have begun, to keep those who are most vulnerable at the forefront of our efforts to build a more just and fair society in Australia. Thank you for all you have done so far to enhance the calibre of debate in the Federal Parliament.

Yours Sincerely

Sr. Anne McGuire RSM