



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TAKE
ACTION TO SUPPORT
PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM**

OUR GROWING VOICE

During National Child Protection Week 2016, CAPSA facilitated a week of solidarity prayer and action for people seeking asylum across Catholic schools nationally.

121 schools took part and added their voices to the call for our political leaders to resolve the crisis at detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island and #BringThemHere.

121 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

nationally participated, from every state and territory – from Hobart to Perth, Darwin to Wollongong.

This represents over

12,000 STUDENTS taking action.

We reached into wider school communities, totalling around

250,000 PEOPLE

2016 was the first year of CAPSA's National Week of Prayer & Action. We expect this event to grow in the future, as more Catholic schools join the call for compassion.

#BRINGTHEMHERE

OUR CALL FOR COMPASSION

The high participation by students and their wider communities shows the strong support for a more compassionate and humane welcome of people seeking asylum amongst the Catholic community.



Students, their families and school communities feel passionately enough to voluntarily participate in action and pray for those on Manus Island and Nauru.

People across the country are calling on our elected representatives to exercise compassion, not cruelty, towards people seeking asylum.

In the Catholic tradition, we urge you to respect the dignity of the human person and welcome the stranger.



OUR SHARED PRINCIPLES

In participating in this week of action, schools stood in commitment to the following principles:

1. Offshore, mandatory and indefinite detention are wrong.
2. The principle of deterrence, by which people who have already tried to come to Australia to seek protection are treated harshly in order to stop others doing the same, cannot be justified morally.
3. People seeking asylum in Australia should live in the Australian community. Those sent to Nauru and Manus Island should be returned to Australia
4. Those living in the community should have the right to work, access to basic services, and to some financial support if they cannot find work.
5. Children should not be held in detention anywhere, but be housed in the Australian community with the full range of services necessary for their welfare.
6. In the Catholic tradition, if people are to live with dignity their family ties are essential. People should have the opportunity to be reunited with separated close family members promptly once they are found to be refugees.

CAPSA is a national initiative to influence hearts and minds in the Catholic community towards a more just, compassionate and humane welcome of people seeking asylum.

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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