



Dr John Kilcullen  
johnkilcullen756@gmail.com

Dear Dr Kilcullen

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 August 2022 to Senator Katy Gallagher, concerning individuals under regional processing arrangements. Senator Gallagher referred your correspondence to the Hon Clare O'Neil as the matter falls within the Minister for Home Affairs' portfolio responsibilities. The Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

Australia is, and will remain, a multicultural society of people drawn from a rich variety of cultural backgrounds. The Albanese Government knows the important social and economic contribution migrants and refugees have had through our nation's history.

The Albanese Government has committed to increase Australia's humanitarian intake and ensure appropriate support for the travel and resettlement of refugees. We are also committed to finding durable migration outcomes for people under regional processing arrangements.

The Government of Nauru is responsible for the implementation of regional processing arrangements in Nauru, including the management of individuals under those arrangements. Australia supports Nauru to implement arrangements through the provision of contracted service providers.

As you are aware, transitory persons in Nauru are not detained and they reside and work in the community. They have access to a variety of health and welfare services, including mental health services, delivered through the Regional Processing Centre Medical Centre and the Republic of Nauru Hospital. Clinical assessment and treatment is provided by a multi-disciplinary team of health practitioners, including general practitioners, nurses and counselling specialists. Specialist health services include psychology, psychiatry, dentistry, obstetrics, radiography and pharmacy services. Where clinically indicated specialist medical treatment is not available in Nauru, mechanisms are in place for temporary transfer to a third country for assessment and treatment.

The former Government ended Australia's regional processing association in Papua New Guinea (PNG) on 31 December 2021. Individuals in PNG were afforded the opportunity to voluntarily transfer to Nauru prior to 31 December 2021. Individuals who chose to remain in PNG on a permanent or temporary pathway are under the independent management of the PNG Government, including providing ongoing settlement support and services.

The Government is committed to finding durable migration outcomes for people under regional processing arrangements and we continue to support the implementation of third country resettlement arrangements with the United States and New Zealand; over 1,000 people having already been resettled in the United States and several hundred have expressed interest in New Zealand resettlement. The Government is aware of transitory persons engaged in the Canadian Private Sponsorship of Refugees program, and is providing logistical assistance to Canada. Individuals are strongly encouraged to engage with available migration options. Third country resettlement provides the best available opportunity for individuals to achieve permanent migration outcomes and start the next phase of their lives.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

BJ

A/g Director  
Regional Processing Health  
People Smuggling Policy and Implementation Taskforce

20 September 2022