

Bridging Visa E:

Recent changes to immigration policy by the Rudd government has resulted in a reduction in the number of Asylum Seekers being issued with Bridging Visa E.

Unfortunately this legislation was not retrospective and means many asylum seekers are still living with limited rights.

While living on a Bridging Visa E, people are awarded no work rights, access to Medicare or Centrelink.

As a result of this, people are completely reliant on the non-for-profit sector.

Detention Centers:

Australia currently detains hundreds of traumatised and helpless people in Immigration Detention Centres.

These centers are located:

- *Villawood IDC*
- *Northern IDC (Darwin)*
- *Maribyrnong IDC*
 - *Perth IDC*
- *Christmas Island IDC*

These centers are designed and run in the image of our jails. This system of assessment and detention is both inhumane and is an ineffective use of tax payers money.



EDMUND RICE ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT



This program is an outreach of the Edmund Rice Centre 'Amberley'

Help us help hundreds of Marginalised Asylum Seekers within Victoria.

Through friendship, support and community together we can bring dignity and meaning to these peoples lives.



Distant view of Australia's \$500 000 000 Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre



EDMUND RICE ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT



Friendship, support and community

Program outline:

Edmund Rice Asylum Seeker Project, aims to respond to the needs of Asylum Seekers in Melbourne. Our mission is to help bring dignity through building friendships and supporting people seeking protection in this nation.

Br Noonan Asylum Seeker House of Welcome:

The Br Noonan Asylum Seeker House of Welcome opens at St Ignatious Parish in Richmond each Sunday While open, our volunteers interact and provide frozen microwave food and friendship to those who visit.

Engage Program:

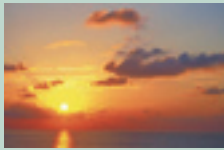
Along with the services provided by the Br Noonan Centre, the project runs the 'Engage Program', which assists with work placements and volunteer experiences for asylum seekers. This program seeks to equip asylum seekers with the skills needed to gain meaningful employment in Australia.

Program Developments:

The Edmund Rice Asylum Seeker Project, is currently in the process of investigating a viable housing project. This project will aim to provide desperately needed housing along with community, friendship and access to workplace preparation skills.



Story Telling



Michael's Story: Michael fled his home of Nigeria to arrive and be incarcerated in Australia. Michael was detained for 6 months and has now been granted protection and is living with a generous donor family.



Kane's Story: Kane moved to Australia from conflict torn Kenya. After being detained in Melbourne for 4 months, he was released onto a Bridging Visa E. Kane is now living in the community with no right to work, access to Medicare or Centrelink and is solely reliant on community aid for survival.



Valentine's Story: Valentine came to Australia to attend the recent World Youth Day event. Unfortunately she did not make it to the event and was immediately detained at one of Australia's international airports. Valentine was detained after Immigration officers searched and read her personal and confidential effects. The abuse of human rights went unchallenged.



EDMUND RICE ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT

Please help us to bring dignity to the lives of these truly needy people.

If you are able to help in any way, please detach the below payment options and forward to

Asylum Seeker Project
7 Amberley Way Lower Plenty, 3093

For more information please contact our program coordinator;
Liam Lucas via email at LLucas@edmundrice.org

My Details:

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr (Please Circle)

Name: _____

Address: _____
P/Code _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ (M) _____

*Cheque/Money order OR

Visa MasterCard Bankcard

_____/_____/_____/_____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

EXPIRY DATE: _____/_____/_____

Material Aid (Brand New) Recreation Goods

Metlink tickets

All contributions over \$2 are fully tax deductible

*Please ensure all cheque's are made out to the Edmund Rice Centre 'Amberley'