

Broken Immigration System

The recent Nixon review (Oct 2023) exposed how badly defective the immigration system is.

Surely the worst of this is demonstrated in visa processing for people seeking asylum.

Is it a 'target' when you miss by years?

Ten years ago, wait times for protection-visa applicants were to be

90 days

but now Dept. of Home Affairs' primary decision can take

876 days

with a merit-based Tribunal review adding

+ 1314 days

and appeals at court level heaping another

+ 1861 days

so that some applicants are forced to wait

11
YEARS

for an outcome

70,000* waiting on decisions

The current reality for those seeking asylum:

Some have no work rights

No income, no utilisation of skills, no pride or sense of fulfilment

Many are unable to work

Suffering trauma, physical and/or mental injury, or tied by care responsibilities or lack of language

Open to exploitation

Those who can work often must take cash-in-hand and precarious gig economy jobs

Rents and daily expenses soar

Staggering rises in the cost of living increases likelihood of hunger, even malnutrition

News from the frontline

Agencies report long-term asylum seekers failing to meet rapidly rising rents

Homeless with no safety net

Being forced onto the street is made even worse when fleeing violence with children in tow

* See here for Refugee Council link

** Nearly 1/4 of Bridge clients have no work rights

Where government is helping:

Most of Nixon Review Accepted

See here for details of Government's response to Nixon Review

Federal Government to spend \$160m

Building faster, fairer onshore protection visa assessment process, comprising:

\$54m for Dept of Home Affairs resources

\$58m for tribunal and court resources

\$49m towards legal assistance resources for asylum seekers.

Where they're not:

No Multicultural NSW funding from our state government

No increase in federally-funded living cost support

Demand outstrips casework capacity

in frontline agencies with wait times of 4-6 weeks merely for a callback

Scarce state government crisis accommodation

with citizens and permanent residents who have preferential access now able to access for extended durations

Community legal centres have 3 month wait-lists

for protection visa applications for new arrivals, making those waiting ineligible for financial assistance, except from very limited sources like Bridge.

Your donations to date

Already the first quarter of this financial year has seen Bridge spend \$115,325 in support of 82 people, including 20 children.



Yet, despite this expenditure (for which Bridge thanks all of our wonderful donors) there remains insufficient capacity to assist everyone asking for our help.

99.43%

of donations go to our clients, please download our annual report

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To recent donors: thank you for your latest generous support

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