

## **This is what the Federal Government has offered.**

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AlexHawke/Pages/commitment-to-afghanistan-increased.aspx>

### **Facts**

- The 15,000 Afghani places being proposed are not for a single year, but are over 4 years – that is, fewer than 4000 per year. It is the understanding that the 15,000 comprise 10,000 Afghan refugee places coming from the Humanitarian Program and 5000 from the Family visa program over this 4 year period.
- It seems that there is no actual increase in the overall Humanitarian, (now depleted\*) intake of 13750 refugees for all countries - even though the 2020-2021 intake was only 5947 (our actual intake for all countries). (\*You will be aware of the Australian government's decision last year to reduce its cap on resettling refugees by 5,000 to 13,750).
- On UN estimates, nearly a million Afghani children are facing death due to cold and hunger this winter. These children are among 23 million Afghans facing food shortages. The 4-year timeline announced by Minister Hawke is simply not addressing the urgency of the situation. How many of these vulnerable people will be alive in 1 year, let alone 4?
- It does nothing to relieve the hardship and insecurity of Hazara / Afghani people already living in Australia on insecure visas – in the community or in detention. These people cannot go back to Afghanistan and as have said so eloquently, they are eager to contribute to our new country. We have many skills and a lot to give. They want to start businesses, to pay tax and to be citizens of Australia

Logically these people cannot be sent back to Afghanistan. They remain in a state of limbo – uncertain if, on the whim of an Australian government official, they and their families will be sent back to Afghanistan - to face the cruel atrocities being dealt by the Taliban.

**Persuade Minister Alex Hawke to change his mind. Call out these injustices and seek immediate change. We need strong leadership on the Afghani deplorable situation. Past Liberal leaders, Malcolm Fraser and more recently, Tony Abbott, have shown what world leaders Australians can be when it comes to helping those so badly and so urgently in need of our help.**

**So, you are urged to send a message to your local member Susan Templeman, potential candidate as a member of parliament, Sarah Richards and Alex Hawke, the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs to ask the Federal Government to:**

- 1. Match the Canadian additional intake of 20k refugees for Afghanistan**
- 2. Offer permanent protection to refugees from Afghanistan and people seeking protection who are already in Australia.**
- 3. Provide access to family reunification pathways for refugees and migrants from Afghanistan in Australia. Please email:**

MP Susan Templeman: [susantempleman.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:susantempleman.mp@aph.gov.au)

(potential candidate) Sarah Richards: [sarah.richards@nswliberal.org.au](mailto:sarah.richards@nswliberal.org.au)

cc to ( Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs) Minister Alex Hawke: [alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au)

*This flyer is endorsed by the Blue Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council  
Maureen Ryan and Carol Teodori (Lawson Parish reps)*