



Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Hon Tony Burke MP  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Burke,

We write to you following the tragic death of 23-year-old Mano Yogalingam in Melbourne on Wednesday.

As you would be aware, Mano, like many others in Australia, spent more than a decade living precariously on rolling bridging visas, after he and his family were failed by our immigration system.

With thousands of others like Mano still living in limbo in our communities, we are writing to urge you to immediately provide a clear and timely pathway to permanency for all of those who were failed by the Fast Track system. This could be achieved via a mechanism similar to the temporary protection conversion to Resolution of Status Visas which is currently being rolled out.

Alternatively, we urge you to implement an expedited re-application process to assess protection claims fairly and justly. This process should be accompanied by broader and swift Ministerial Intervention to grant permanent residency to people who have compelling and compassionate reasons to remain in Australia yet may no longer have protection claims due to the decade-long delay caused by protracted Department processing.

Ultimately, Mano (who was an 11-year-old at the time) and his family fled an oppressive regime. Despite this, Mano's family's quest for safety in Australia was denied by our government, and Mano's visa application was subsequently rejected under the Fast Track system.



Around 31,000 people have been subjected to the unfair 'Fast Track' refugee status determination process yet, like Mano, these people have been living in Australia for over a decade: working, paying taxes, attending school and rebuilding their lives.

Yet Mano never experienced certain safety in Australia.

To our shame, many others are still languishing under our current system. Their temporary status affects every part of their life, including the ability to work or study, access services, and recover from trauma.

It is absolutely within our government's power to end this brutality.

The establishment of the new Administrative Review Tribunal and the abolition of both the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA) and the Fast Track Process are welcome but this will not be enough to ensure the 8,500 asylum seekers currently living in limbo because of an arbitrary system, are given certainty.[1]

Citizen or non-citizen, as a nation we must respect every person's human rights, and it is time we put an end to this dark chapter in our nation's history.

We call on our government to rise above the politics of fear and provide a clear and timely pathway to permanency for all of those who were failed by the Fast Track system by providing them with permanent residency or implementing an expedited re-application process.

We cannot afford to lose another life to this broken system.

Yours Sincerely,

Kylea Tink MP

Adam Bandt MP

Dr Sophie Scamps MP

Dr Helen Haines MP

Dr Monique Ryan MP

Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP

Kate Chaney MP

Max Chandler-Mather MP

Stephen Bates MP

Zali Steggall OAM MP



Zoe Daniel MP

Senator David Shoebridge

Senator Mehreen Faruqi

Senator Larissa Waters

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young

Senator Nick McKim

Senator Jordon Steele-John

Senator Dorinda Cox

Senator Penny-Allman-Payne

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson

Senator Barbara Pocock

Senator Steph Hodgins-May

Senator David Pocock

Senator David Van

Senator Lidia Thorpe

[📄](https://www.asrc.org.au) [Refugee protests build momentum as people demand an end to life in limbo \(asrc.org.au\)](https://www.asrc.org.au)