



# Refugee Council of Australia

22 March 2015

To whom it may concern,

## RE: SUBMISSION TO THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) is the national umbrella body for refugees, asylum seekers and the organisations and individuals who work with them, representing 200 organisations and more than 1,000 individual members. Established in 1981, RCOA promotes the adoption of humane, lawful and constructive policies by governments and communities in Australia and internationally towards refugees, asylum seekers and humanitarian entrants. RCOA consults regularly with its members, community leaders and people from refugee backgrounds and this submission is informed by their views.

RCOA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Universal Periodic Review of Australia. We regret that limited progress has been made by the Australian Government in addressing many of the issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers raised during the last Review of Australia. Indeed, some of the positive developments noted in RCOA's submission to the last Review of Australia have now been reversed. RCOA has provided input to and endorses the joint NGO submission to the Review. In this submission, we wish to draw the Council's attention to a number of additional issues of concern which have significant implications for the enjoyment of human rights by refugees and asylum seekers in Australia.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on +61 2 9211 9333 or [admin@refugeecouncil.org.au](mailto:admin@refugeecouncil.org.au) should you require further information.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Power". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Power  
Chief Executive Officer