

Dear SA member

Just a few hours ago Premier Mike Baird publicly called on Prime Minister Abbott to "do more" to help refugees. He recognised that "as a lucky country we have a responsibility to play in helping others as part of that community"(1).

If we play this right, this could be a turning point for refugee and asylum seeker rights in Australia and NSW.

When our politicians step up and do the right thing it's important we congratulate them for their courage. [Can you thank the Premier and ask him to keep stepping up this long weekend? They'll come back to their inboxes on Tuesday knowing that we support their compassion!](#) (Suggested text below)

Premier Baird went on to say that "NSW stands ready...to take more than our fair share". Mikhayla Trope a student of Masada College and Fr Jim Carty of the Jesuits* have been running a Sydney Alliance campaign to ask the NSW Government to allow newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers concession cards. Without an income, getting around on Sydney's public transport system can be tough - we've heard stories of people being stranded in distance suburbs or not being able to collect charity hampers because they literally can't get to the charity. Something as simple as reduced train fares will go a long way.

(should be 'of the Marists'! - webmaster's correction)*

[Can you support Mikhayla and Fr Jim's campaign by sending a letter to Premier Baird and Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian?](#)

Can you also [post a message on Premier Baird's Facebook wall to congratulate him](#) and ask him to take a first step by offering **concession cards?** (You can comment on a picture).

Now, together, we can create change.

Fr Jim, Mikhayla and Samara

PS. For more information on the campaign [check out our website](#).

(1) <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/nsw-premier-mike-baird-tells-prime-minister-tony-abbott-do-more-to-help-refugees-20150123-12wwcj.html>

Suggested text for email:

Dear Premier Baird and Minister Berejiklian,

our nation's most vulnerable.

I support your statement made on 23rd January about our responsibility as a lucky country.

You suggest that NSW is ready to do its fair share - one simple way is to allow asylum seekers and newly arrived refugees access to travel concession cards. Dignity of mobility will go a long way to allowing asylum seekers and refugees to stand on their own feet.

The Sydney Alliance would be happy to talk to you about this campaign.

Sincerely and in thanks

<http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/>

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