



Refugee Council
of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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REFUGEE COUNCIL WELCOMES LABOR REVIEW OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION VISAS

The Refugee Council of Australia has welcomed the Labor Party's plans to review its support for temporary protection visas in favour of permanent protection for refugees who seek asylum in Australia.

Chief executive officer of the Refugee Council of Australia, Paul Power, said those promoting a new Labor policy recognised the failings and the human cost of the current temporary protection visa (TPV) regime.

"The TPV system has made life more difficult for people who have demonstrated their need for protection from persecution in their country of origin," Mr Power said.

"People who have escaped persecution need permanency, safety and the opportunity to begin putting their lives back together. TPVs undermine people's sense of security, make finding permanent jobs more difficult and delay the reuniting of families, creating additional psychological damage for many people.

"We are pleased that the Labor Party now is prepared to consider that, given that Australia has granted permanent protection to more than 80 per cent of TPV holders so far, this damaging policy is pointless and counter-productive."

Mr Power said the Labor policy review was another welcome sign that the Australian political mood was continuing to shift towards more humane and reasonable responses to the needs of people fleeing persecution and abuses of human rights.

"We would encourage the Labor, Liberal and National parties to review their support for temporary protection visas and adopt an approach more in line with Australian values, to give people who are doing it tough a fair go," he said.