

Eva Cox

Writer and Academic

Message to the ASRC



“Congratulations to ASRC for the 10 years of work you have done and are doing for those looking for safety in Australia. The country fails official tests of humanity by demonising those needing our help. So we need you and other organisations to show those in power and fellow citizens what should be done if we want a much more civil society. Otherwise people lose faith in our potential for goodness and hospitality.

My own experience has influenced my involvement in social change. When I was thirteen months old, Hitler made me stateless so I and my mother became refugees in England. We survived because we could leave Vienna in 1939, We owe others the same rights which is why the UN refugee convention was created.

Thank you for doing what really should be done by all and keeping faith with human ideals.

Biography

Writer, academic and prominent feminist Eva Cox was born into a middle-class Jewish family in Vienna in 1938. Following the annexation of Austria by Hitler and the consequent disenfranchisement of Jews, her mother sought refuge with her children in England. They later travelled to Australia, where their relatives had earlier sought refuge. Eva has had a long and distinguished career as an activist and sociologist. She is a long-time member and spokesperson for the Women’s Electoral Lobby and a prominent advocate for women’s rights and welfare. She has served as Director of the New South Wales Council for Social Service, Advisor to the shadow spokesperson on Social Services and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology, Sydney, as well as being a widely-published writer. She became an Officer in the Order of Australia in 1995.

