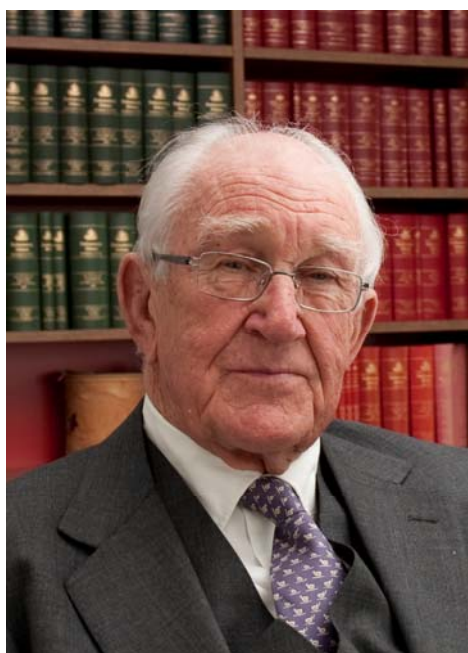


The Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser, AC, CH

22nd Prime Minister of Australia

Message to the ASRC



“I was honoured to be asked to be Patron of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. It accomplishes a great deal of important and necessary work. It attempts to help people in distress, people who have fled tyranny and oppression in their own lands. Such people should be welcomed by Australia warmly and with generosity and compassion.

“One of the reasons for the enormous success of the Vietnamese migration in the 70s and 80s was that boat people and other refugees from Indo-China were welcomed warmly with assistance and with generosity.

“At that time the major political parties did not play politics with race or religion, with the lives of people fleeing from terror. Ever since the Tampa incident the debate about asylum seekers has demeaned Australia and diminished our reputation worldwide.

“For a while the current Government tried to introduce more humane policies but once it was accused of being soft on border protection it followed the Liberal party to the bottom of the barrel.

“The debate does Australia no good within Australia or overseas where our attitude to asylum seekers has been watched closely with concern and in some places with contempt. This has made many people wonder what kind of nation we in fact are. Australia desperately needs a humane, compassionate and bipartisan policy in relation to the asylum seekers, to refugees and to immigration generally.

“Regrettably it is hard to see such unity coming out of the current parliament with its current membership.”



Biography

Malcolm Fraser was elected to Parliament in 1955 during the Menzies Government. He was Prime Minister of Australia from 1975-83. In 2001 Mr Fraser helped establish Australians for Just Refugee Programs. In 2005 the group became A Just Australia and Mr Fraser continues his association. Mr Fraser is a Founder of The Justice Project, set up in 2004 to stand up for basic human rights in our society. In 2002 Mr Fraser published his book 'Common Ground: Issues that should bind and not divide us'. An updated paperback edition was published in 2003. In 2006 he founded the website www.australiansall.com.au, dedicated to opposing all forms of racism and discrimination, selectivity in the application of the law and public policy that seeks to divide or exclude. The Malcolm Fraser Collection was launched in October 2007. It is held at the University of Melbourne Law School: www.unimelb.edu.au/malcolmfraser/. In 2009 he founded an Australian group to support the work of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (founded by Prime Minister Rudd), to promote international cooperation in forging a world free of nuclear weapons.

In March 2010 "Malcolm Fraser: The Political Memoirs", by Malcolm Fraser and Margaret Simons, was published by Miegunyah Press.

Mr Fraser is currently Honorary Chairman of the InterAction Council of Former Heads of Government (Member since 1983).

- International Crisis Group Board Member 1996-2000.
- Senior Advisor to the ICG 2000 - ...
- Australian International Health Institute Board Member, 2001 - ...
- Joint Patron: Journey of Healing, National Sorry Day Committee 2002-2006.
- 2007 - ... Patron of the Stolen Generations Alliance.
- Chairman: the United Nations Hearings on the Role of Multinationals in South Africa and Namibia in 1985.
- Co-Chairman of the Commonwealth Committee of Eminent Persons in 1986, formed to encourage reform in South Africa.
- Chairman: the United Nations Committee on African Commodity Problems: 1989.
- Chairman, CARE Australia: 1987-2001.
- President, CARE International: 1990-1995.
- Vice President, CARE International: 1995-99.

