



“COOLING THE HEAT ON” THE ASYLUM DEBATE

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MYTH BUSTERS

MYTH #1:

Asylum seekers
are illegal.

FACT:

It's not illegal to seek
asylum, even if they are
arriving by boat.

MYTH #3:

Asylum seekers are
'country shoppers';
they could have
stopped at other places
along the way.

FACT:

Country shoppers?
Malaysia and Indonesia
are not signatories to
the Refugee Convention.
Asylum seekers are illegal
there so they can't stop.

MYTH #2:

Boat people are
economic migrants
choosing Australia
for a better life.

FACT:

Over 90% of asylum seek-
ers who arrive by boat are
found to be refugees.

MYTH #4:

They come here
because they know
they'll get Centrelink
and the red carpet
treatment.

FACT:

Asylum seekers do not
receive any payment from
Centrelink whatsoever. Most
live below the poverty line,
relying on charity to survive.

MYTH #5:

Asylum seekers want to destroy our way of life and bring fundamentalism to Australia.

FACT:

Australia has a rich and multicultural history making us a better nation - asylum seekers and refugees have helped us with this.

MYTH #7:

They destroy their documentation to cheat the system.

FACT:

Destroying documents has no benefit to asylum seekers. They often flee quickly and aren't able to get all necessary documentation before leaving.

MYTH #9:

Charity begins at home, let's help our poor & homeless first.

FACT:

Australia spends billions on mandatory detention and offshore processing. Placing people in the community would cost a fraction of that.

MYTH #6:

Boat people are potential terrorists and pose a security risk to Australia.

FACT:

No boat person has ever been proven to be a terrorist. Boat arrivals receive the most scrutinised security checks of all.

MYTH #8:

Asylum seekers who come by boat are queue jumpers.

FACT:

For most asylum seekers, there is no queue to join - coming by boat is the only option between life and death.

MYTH #10:

We already do our fair share, Australia is one of the most generous nations in the world with refugees.

FACT:

80% of refugees are in developing countries. In 2012, Australia ranked 49th for number of refugees hosted, way behind Germany, the UK and US.