

Social Media Report 2017

BMRSNG has a growing and effective social media presence.. Our website <http://www.bmrsg.org.au/> and Facebook page promote our events, send out calls for action, and inform. People access the page to keep up to date with events, the work of BMRSNG, membership, how to be involved and to contact us.

In 2016-17 we had a successful online campaign against banning mobile phones in on shore detention centres, raised funds for a Learn to Swim program for children of asylum seekers in western Sydney, raised funds to support the legal costs of asylum seekers who were required to apply for SHEV before 31 October. We called for submissions to the Senate Inquiry Amendments to the Migration Act. Over 400 people opened the webpage explaining how to write a submission and it reached 8500 through Facebook. We are currently calling for people to contact the politicians about the stranding of 600 men on Manus Island.

We ran a series of articles on the unseen work of BMRSNG volunteers under the heading **#BMRSNGHelps**.

The website also publishes research papers by Graeme Swincer which are accessed by those representing people seeking residence permits and arguing why it is not safe to return people to their country of origin.

We have a **Twitter** account @BMRSNG1 which is followed by 311 including groups such as Refugee Action Coalition, ChilOut, Welcome Australia and Grandmothers Against Detention of Children NSW. All our Facebook posts go to Twitter and have been shared by many individuals and groups.

We keep in contact with many other advocacy groups via social media and respond to requests from like minded groups to promote particular issues, petitions, stories etc.

Social media is an important aspect of the work of the Advocacy Group.

Many thanks to all who have supported our social media sites and provided content.

Pat Rayner

Social media coordinator