

Vigil to mark 5 years of Manus and Nauru-Windsor 19th July 12 noon Penrith 2 pm

Acknowledgement of Country

As we begin this vigil we acknowledge that we are on the country of the Darug People of the Darug Nation and acknowledge their ancestors who have been Traditional Owners of their country for thousands of years. We would also like to acknowledge and pay our respect to the Darug People's Elders past and present. We pray that their spirit goes with us.

Introduction

We meet here today to mark 5 years of Australian History of which we are not proud. We meet to grieve for the impact of that ongoing pain acknowledge and show respect for those young men who died in seeking to find safety in our country by boat, the only way they could escape ever present danger and so lost their lives in offshore prison Islands.

We also meet to affirm that there is a better way to manage the flow of refugees who at present are flooding the planet due to wars famines and persecution. Australia cannot take everyone but we can use our resources to help by increasing our foreign aid and working with our neighbours to provide a respectful humane and well managed way of helping people apply for asylum without getting on to boats and risking drowning at sea.

We can treat people humanely once they get here