

# Linda Reynolds

Senator for Western Australia



## THE REYNOLDS REPORT

### *The Syrian and Iraqi Humanitarian Crisis*



Yesterday the Government made an important announcement about the humanitarian and security crisis in the Middle East. The PM announced Australia will permanently resettle an additional 12,000 refugees from the conflict in Syria and Iraq, with a priority to resettle women, children and families of persecuted minorities.

This is a very significant increase in Australia's humanitarian intake and is a generous response to the current emergency.

The Government has worked closely with the United Nations and other humanitarian organisations to develop one of the most generous commitments to the Syrian refugee crisis in the world. It is a response that best reflects Australia's proud history as a

### Fast Facts

- The Abbott Government will resettle an **additional 12,000** Syrian refugees by the end of 2015.
- The 12,000 places will be **in addition** to the **existing** humanitarian program for **13,750** places, which will rise to **18,750** in 2018-19.
- The Abbott Government will contribute an **additional \$44 million** to help **240,000 displaced people** receive access to food, fresh, clean water, protection and additional support.
- With this additional commitment, Australia's contribution to help address the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq will have risen to **\$230 million since 2011**.

country with a generous heart.

Australia is only in the position to resettle an additional 12,000 Syrian refugees because the Government has regained control over our borders and migration program.

I could not be prouder of the assistance our Government has pledged to the Syrian refugees, and I urge you to [watch the PM's announcement from yesterday.](#)

## Australia's Record on Resettling Refugees

- Australia is the most generous nation per capita on its permanent resettlement of refugees and displaced people.
- Australia spends an estimated \$660 million each year in Government assistance on the resettlement of asylum seekers.
- Australia has resettled over 800,000 refugees and displaced persons since 1945.
- Under the previous Labor Government, Australia lost sovereign control over its borders, at a cost to our nation of \$11.6 billion.

- The **European Union has announced they will resettle 120,000** refugees across their 28 member states. With a population three times the size of our own, the UK has offered to permanently resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees and France has offered to permanently resettle 24,000 Syrian refugees.

## Australia's Assistance to Syrians

- In 2011-12, under the Labor Government, 9 Syrian refugees were resettled in Australia.
- In 2012-13, under the Labor Government, 98 Syrian refugees were settled in Australia.
- In 2013-14, under the Coalition Government, 1,007 Syrian refugees were resettled in Australia.
- In 2014-15, the Coalition Government had already set aside 2,200 places for the resettlement of the Syrians refugees.

Until next time,

Linda



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Senator Linda Reynolds  
26 Charles Street, South Perth, WA 6151  
(08) 9368 6633

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