



MEDIA RELEASE

**THE HON BILL SHORTEN
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG**

**THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES
SHADOW MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER
PROTECTION
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

TONY ABBOTT MUST SHOW GENUINE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS

Today, Labor calls on Tony Abbott to convene an emergency meeting of state, community and religious representatives to work towards Australia making an offer of an additional 10,000 humanitarian places for refugees displaced by the conflict in the Middle East.

This one off additional increase would be on top of Australia's current intake of 13,750. This is a significant contribution but could be offset by cost sharing with the states; community sponsored visas; family reunification visas and the provision of work rights. If we work together, 10,000 places can be provided to people who desperately need our help.

Australia should work with the UNHCR to determine who is placed. Priority would be given to people displaced from the Syria and Iraq conflicts, who are currently in refugee camps in neighbouring countries and Europe.

Tony Abbott needs to demonstrate genuine compassion and leadership and provide real assistance to refugees displaced by the conflict in the Middle East. We believe simply allocating existing places to the Syrian refugee crisis is not taking real action.

In addition, Labor calls on the Government to immediately contribute an extra \$AUD100 million towards humanitarian relief efforts in response to the Syrian crisis.

This would help provide life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by the crisis, including the millions of people living in refugee camps in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan.

The Syrian crisis is the greatest humanitarian emergency of our era. Australia must do its part by offering more humanitarian places to help those seeking safety from war and persecution, and by providing more assistance to help relieve the terrible humanitarian situation on the ground in Syria, Iraq, and neighbouring countries.

The Australian community has expressed a strong desire for the Government to show leadership - Tony Abbott must act.

Labor will work with politicians of any political persuasion to help make this happen.

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