



## MEDIA RELEASE

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

#### **TURNBULL SHOULD COME CLEAN ON CASH PAYMENTS**

An Amnesty International report released today makes clear that the Abbott-Turnbull Government has serious questions to answer about its conduct under Operation Sovereign Borders.

The Government has stubbornly refused to rule out whether it gave cash to criminal people smugglers to turn boats around at sea.

This is unacceptable and a matter that Malcolm Turnbull must immediately clear up without any question, or risk giving criminal people smugglers new incentive to put vulnerable people on boats.

The Australian community deserves to be told whether this Government has used taxpayer money to pay people smugglers to turn boats around at sea.

This is not a practice Labor engaged in while in government or would employ in the future.

This government has used the cover of 'operational matters' to deny the Australian community valid information about its border protection policies.

Fair minded people have serious concerns about how this government is conducting its immigration and border protection policies, and rightly so.

There needs to be greater transparency of Australian funded facilities, greater co-operation with regional partners to ensure speedy processing and the humane treatment of all asylum seekers and refugees.

Labor would put in place independent oversight of all Australian funded facilities.

**THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2015**