



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

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## **UNHCR welcomes further resolution of Nauru cases**

UNHCR Regional Representative Mr Neill Wright today welcomed the Australian Government's decision to bring most of the remaining asylum-seekers on Nauru to Australia.

Australian Immigration Minister Senator Amanda Vanstone announced today that 25 of the 27 people remaining in the Offshore Processing Centre on Nauru would be brought to Australia – including 13 people found to be refugees based on updated country information from the UNHCR and other sources.

Given the need to avoid further exacerbating reported mental health problems, Mr Wright urged the Government to expedite any security clearance processes and to ensure that people being brought from Nauru will not need to be detained after arriving in Australia.

"I strongly encourage the Government to explore alternatives to detention for those people who have been found not to be refugees," Mr Wright said.

"Some of these people have been on Nauru now for four years and UNHCR has been concerned about the impact on their mental health for some time.

"As I reported after my April 2005 visit to Nauru, while the asylum-seekers have been well cared for in physical terms, I've been very concerned about the impact of their isolation and prolonged situation on their mental health. So, I strongly urge the authorities to avoid detention in prison-like conditions once these people are brought to Australia," Mr Wright said.

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