

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786259403321
Titolo	Asylum seekers and immigration detention [[electronic resource] /] / edited by Justin Healey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Thirroul, N.S.W., : Spinney Press, 2013
ISBN	1-922084-04-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (60 pages) : colour illustrations
Collana	Issues in society ; ; v. 353
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Disciplina	325.210994
Soggetti	Political refugees - Australia Detention of persons - Australia
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Australia's obligations to asylum seekers -- Chapter 2. Immigration detention in Australia -- Chapter 3. Offshore processing policy debate.
Sommario/riassunto	The record rate of unauthorised and unsafe boat arrivals on Australian shores has further fuelled the longstanding asylum seeker debate and prompted the federal government to seek an effective solution to a seemingly intractable border control problem. The government's recent policy backdown which resulted in the reintroduction of offshore processing for asylum seekers while at the same increasing the annual refugee intake, has drawn both praise and condemnation. Should Australia 'turn back the boats' of the so-called 'queue jumpers' to deter the unsafe and unscrupulous practices of people smugglers? Should Australia maintain offshore processing in other countries such as Nauru and Papua New Guinea (Manus Island), or process asylum seekers onshore in Australia? What are Australia's obligations to asylum seekers under the Refugee Convention and under its own laws? Is the practice of prolonged mandatory detention adding further trauma to the lives of people who may have already fled from desperate situations in their homelands?