



Immigration Advice  
and Rights Centre

**HELPING  
PEOPLE  
NAVIGATE**  
| AUSTRALIAN  
IMMIGRATION LAW

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **New bridging visa laws that limit freedom and human rights are “shameful” and “unjust”**

The Immigration Advice and Rights Centre says the bridging visa conditions passed through parliament overnight, in response to the High Court’s ruling on indefinite detention, limit freedom and human rights.

“The new laws are shameful and unjust. It’s outrageous to single out a group of people and place conditions on them that are so oppressive, they appear almost impossible to follow,” Principal Solicitor Joshua Strutt said.

“With mandatory curfews and electronic ankle devices monitoring their every move people would never feel completely free. The conditions are so restrictive a person could feel like they are still being detained,” he said.

IARC says the conditions would apply to migrants and refugees regardless of whether they have criminal convictions or not.

“They will be imposed on the bridging visa without any assessment of whether those conditions are appropriate in every case,” Mr Strutt said.

“It will mean that people who have never been convicted of a crime will be ostracised and treated like criminals in the community. For those who have committed crimes, they have already been subject to the criminal justice system, then immigration detention and will now be punished for a third time,” he said.

IARC says the conditions would also provide little opportunity for people to rebuild their lives after detention or integrate properly into the community.

“How could anyone build a life with a tracking device on their ankle indefinitely,” Mr Strutt said.

“The High Court ruling corrected something that should never have occurred in the first place. No government acting alone should have the power to indefinitely detain people, in detention centres or the community,” he said.

**– ENDS –**

For more information contact Communications Manager Sarah Sinclair on 0419 170 535 or [sarah.sinclair@iarc.org.au](mailto:sarah.sinclair@iarc.org.au).

### **About IARC**

The Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC) is a community legal centre. We are a non-profit that helps vulnerable people navigate Australian immigration law by providing free legal advice, information and casework services. We provide expert legal services to our clients through three practice areas: Immigration and Domestic Violence, Visas and Citizenship, and Visa Assist for Union Members. Our team works with people who are experiencing multiple layers of hardship. Many of the people we assist have experienced trauma and are financially disadvantaged.

**IARC has more than 35 years experience in migration law and policy. Our vision is for Australia’s immigration system to be fair, just and accessible for everyone.**