

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Title** Minister's Direction 62 is antifamily says AASW

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is dismayed by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection's recent direction (Direction 62) that refugees who have arrived by boat will no longer have their family visa applications processed.

Professor Karen Healy, President of the AASW, said that Direction 62 was "antifamily and would add pressure on women and children to risk their lives on boats as this would be the only way that some families could now be reunited."

"Healthy families are the bedrock of a healthy society," said Professor Healy. "The evidence is unequivocal that where policies lead to the breakdown of family life, the social and psychological consequences are dire. I have written to Minister Morrison explaining that Direction 62 is damaging to families, causing immediate acute distress and laying the foundation for serious, yet avoidable, mental illness and antisocial behaviour in the future."

The AASW has asked for a meeting with the Minister to further explain the serious social consequences of Direction 62 on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole.

The AASW represents 7500 professional social workers, many of whom work directly with refugees. As such they experience firsthand the incredible distress Direction 62 is causing amongst a group of people already proven to be oppressed by their country of origin.

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