

Offshore centres proving lethal

THE tragic death of Hamid Kehazaei from septicaemia draws attention to the lethal conditions in our offshore detention centres.

If the justification for offshore processing is to prevent people dying at sea, how can we sit by while asylum seekers are housed in filthy conditions that pose clear and proven dangers to human life?

Offshore processing is a failed policy that places Australia in breach of international obligations and, by all accounts, is a nightmare for all those who work and who are housed in these centres.

It is time for a new approach that respects the human dignity of all those seeking asylum on our shores.

**Karen Healy, national president,
Australian Association of
Social Workers**