

## Cross-party group to work on fresh approach to asylum seekers

*Five politicians from different parties and five religious leaders will try to find practical solutions with broad support on asylum seeker policy*

Shalailah Medhora, *The Guardian*, 16 October 2015

A number of politicians will work with religious leaders on creating a new, humane asylum seeker policy, after conceding that public opinion on the issue has shifted.

The 5/5 working group, containing five politicians from different parties and five cross-denominational religious leaders, was created during a forum in Parliament House on Thursday.

Around 50 leaders representing Christian, Muslim and Jewish faith groups met with 15 politicians from the Liberal, National, Labor and Greens parties on how to create a “solution c” on asylum seekers, away from the polarising “stopping the boats” and “opening the borders” rhetoric that has surrounded the debate.



Faith leaders met with Parliamentarians including Labor’s Anna Burke and Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young with Russell Broadbent and Cathy McGowan. Photograph: Mike Bowers for the Guardian.