

A statement from a spokesman for the Prime Minister:

Detainees in the Immigration Detention Network – including those at the Park Hotel in Melbourne – consist of people found to be owed protection, those who are failed asylum seekers, and others whose status is yet to be determined.

The Prime Minister did not say there were no refugees at the Park Hotel, it is clear there are both refugees that we are seeking to resettle and those proved not to be owed protection that we are looking to return.

Persons transferred from regional processing countries who are temporarily in Australia for health care or other purposes are managed in detention or the community according to their individual circumstances, until they are able to depart Australia.

Transitory persons are encouraged to engage in third country migration options and take steps to start the next phase of their life, including to resettle in a third country or voluntarily return home or to another country in which they have a right of entry.

Australia is one of the world's most generous contributors to international refugee resettlement efforts and consistently ranks as one of the top three humanitarian resettlement countries worldwide.

This is only possible because we've cleaned up the mess left behind by Labor when they lost control of Australia's borders.

Under Labor from 2008 and 2013, more than 50,000 people arrived in Australia illegally on more than 820 boats, tragically at least 1,200 died at sea.

Since 2013, the Coalition Government has worked methodically – and successfully – to end maritime people smuggling to Australia and clean up Labor's mess.

- By turning back boats, we stopped illegal arrivals;
- By negotiating the US resettlement arrangement, we found a durable solution for the people who turned up illegally on Labor's watch;
- and we've finalised arrangements with PNG, ending an arrangement Labor started.