

CHASING ASYLUM – FILM SYNOPSIS

Chasing Asylum exposes the real impact of Australia's offshore detention policies and explores how 'The Lucky Country' became a country where leaders choose detention over compassion and governments deprive the desperate of their basic human rights.



The film puts a human face to the government's offshore detention policies by presenting the raw personal stories of people seeking asylum sent to languish in indefinite detention on Manus Island and Nauru.

With unprecedented material from Australia's offshore detention camps on Manus and Nauru where no press, journalists or cameras are allowed, *Chasing Asylum* features never before seen footage of the appalling living conditions for detainees and brings together the faces and the voices of those impacted, but deliberately locked out of, the debate on Australian border protection.

Hear directly from asylum seekers about the inhumane, dangerous and hopeless conditions they endure daily in desolate detention centres. Meet the men and women who hope and dream of giving their children a safe future.

The film includes moving insights from those the Australian government wishes to silence – those who have worked on Manus Island and Nauru including security guards, social workers and interpreters whose shocking accounts of daily life in the detention centres underscore the gravity of Australia's policies, including the decision to keep children in indefinite detention – the only country in the world to do so.

Chasing Asylum also offers a bridge to understanding: why people leave their homes, risk everything, pay people smugglers, and endure unimaginable hardships in search of a safer life. At the same time it takes a good, hard look at how Australia shapes up against other nations dealing with displaced people and scrutinises the investment the government has chosen to make in detention ahead of sanctuary, spotlighting the billions of dollars spent on detaining asylum seekers and the hefty price tag of sending them to third world nations.

Australia is a democratic nation with a proud history of welcoming refugees, yet we have become a country that indefinitely locks away men, women and children in unsanitary conditions away from media scrutiny. Something has gone terribly wrong. *Chasing Asylum* seeks to explore what that something might be, and to show that it's never right to destroy lives, even under the pretext of saving them.

Appearing in the film alongside asylum seekers who have spent time in detention on Nauru and Manus Island and a number of former workers from inside the system who have participated exclusively in the film and spoken out for the first time, are author and journalist David Marr, human rights lawyer, David Manne, journalist Michael Bachelard and former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, in one of his final interviews.

Go to <http://www.chasingasylum.com.au/> for more information.