

The Hon Polly Tician MP
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs
PO Box 564
Revesby NSW 2212

28 August 2019

Dear Minister

My name is Jessica and I live in your electorate of Banks with my partner and our five-year-old daughter. I'm writing to you because I want our government to support people seeking refuge to reunite with their families.

I was deeply moved when I heard the story of Lucy, a woman who was separated from her three-year-old daughter Susan during the civil war in Sudan. Lucy was separated from her daughter as the city was being bombed and was unsure if she survived. When she later discovered that her daughter was alive, it took three years for her to be brought to Australia and reunited with her mother due to our complex and prohibitive visa processes. I cannot imagine the torment of being separated from my little girl and my heart breaks from what Lucy went through.

We currently have an unfair system that makes refugee families like Lucy's wait for years on end to reunite. Sometimes they are separated for years. Sometimes they never see their mothers, fathers, brothers or sisters again. And these Australians are expected to pay as much as \$47,000 to reunite with one family member.

It doesn't have to be like this. Research released by Oxfam in their report "[Stronger Together: The impact of family separation on refugees and humanitarian migrants in Australia](#)", shows that reuniting families is good for society *and* good for the economy. We must support people seeking refuge to reunite with their families.

I'm asking that you support Oxfam's call to keep families together by making an extra 10,000 spaces available for family reunions.

NEEDS AN ACTION/FOLLOW UP e.g. I would like to hear back from you on the Government's response to the report and what you are doing in the Immigration portfolio to ensure families stay together. OR I would like to meet with you to brief you further on the report and to introduce you to other members of your electorate for whom families are important.

Yours Faithfully,

Your Signature

[Your first name and surname]

[Include your full address if you want a reply by letter, or you can add your email and phone number if you would like to be contacted that way]