



The fate of rejected asylum seekers

A WELL ROUNDED FEAR: SBS, Wednesday, 8.30pm

EVERY year, thousands of people flee their homelands to escape war and persecution. The people who make it to Australia end up in detention centres while their claims for asylum are processed. This can take months, if not years and can lead to a sense of profound uncertainty. The Australian Government eventually sends back asylum seekers it doesn't think are refugees, and who can't prove they have "a well-founded fear" for their safety.

International law stipulates that people shouldn't be sent to unsafe locations. But like many countries that deport asylum seekers, the Australian Government doesn't monitor what happens to the people they send back – they don't regard it as

their responsibility.

A Well-Founded Fear follows the work of a small group of committed Australians who have made it their mission to find the asylum seekers Australia has rejected.

Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, a small social justice agency, has been travelling the globe in search of rejected asylum seekers. To date, he and his colleagues have tracked down over 250 returnees in 22 countries. What they have found has troubled and disturbed Glendenning.

The film's producer, Anne Delaney, wanted to discover what motivates Glendenning to do what no-one else has done: "I wanted to show the policies, practices and attitudes that have put people's lives in danger. I believe the film shows humanity at its best, and worst."