

**REPORT (ABRIDGED) BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND  
IMMIGRATION OMBUDSMAN FOR TABLING IN PARLIAMENT**

*Under s 486O of the Migration Act 1958*

This is the first s 486O report on Mr X and his family who remained in immigration detention for more than 24 months (two years).

<b>Name</b>	Mr X (and family)
<b>Citizenship</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>Year of birth</b>	1992
<b>Ombudsman ID</b>	1002996
<b>Date of DIBP's report</b>	22 July 2015

**Detention history**

19 July 2013	Mr X, Ms Y and their son were detained under s 189(3) of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> after arriving in Australia aboard Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel 796 <i>Rehobeth</i> .
27 August 2015	Granted Bridging visas and released from community detention.

**Visa applications/case progression**

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) advised that prior to being released from detention, Mr X and his family were part of a cohort who had not had their protection claims assessed as they arrived in Australia after 13 August 2012 and the Minister had not lifted the bar under s 46A.

**Health and welfare**

Ms Y was provided with treatment and counselling for a range of physical and mental health issues including a history of torture and trauma, depression, anxiety and panic attacks.

May 2015	Ms Y gave birth to her son.
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**Ombudsman assessment/recommendation**

Mr X and his family were granted Bridging visas on 27 August 2015 and released from immigration detention.

The Ombudsman notes that Mr X and his family were held in detention for over two years before being granted Bridging visas. The Ombudsman further notes that, at the time of DIBP's review, processing of their claims for protection had not commenced.

The Ombudsman recommends that the Minister lift the bar under s 46A and processing of the family's protection claims commence as soon as possible.