Dear Mr Turnbull,

Loreto schools in Australia and across the globe have been engaged in the education, encouragement and nurture of children and young people for over 400 years. As a teacher/parent in a Loreto school I viewed Wednesday’s High Court decision to return the asylum seeker families to Nauru with dismay, pain and disappointment.

Given recent legislation by the governments of both parties in regard to asylum seekers the Court’s decision came as no surprise, but what is legal is not necessarily moral. It can never be moral to detain people for months and years in limbo without hope or future; it can never be moral to abrogate responsibility for those coming to Australia for protection by shunting them to off-shore islands under the rule of foreign countries; it can never be moral to keep babies, children and their families in living conditions which threaten their health and security and it can never be moral to systematically violate UN provisions for the protection of asylum seekers, the care of children and the human rights of all people.

I urge you in the name of all that is humane and decent to allow these babies and their families to remain in Australia but, more importantly, I ask that you and your government acknowledge your duty of care for these desperate people and give your undivided attention to finding a solution to the incarceration of people whose only crime was to flee violence and persecution and look to Australia for protection.

Yours sincerely,