

Expert Panel Backs Asylum Seeker Swap Deal With Malaysia
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MELBOURNE, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- An Australian government-appointed panel of experts on asylum seeker policy has recommended offshore processing in both Malaysia and Nauru.

The three-member panel led by former defence force chief Angus Houston has also recommended the reopening of the detention centres on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island, established by the previous Howard government, the Australian Associated Press reported.

They are among 22 key recommendations from the panel that also includes refugee policy specialist Paris Aristotle and former diplomat Michael L'Estrange.

The panel said the Nauru and Manus Island centres should be re-established as soon as possible.

It said the government's Malaysian asylum seeker swap deal should "be built on further, rather than being discarded or neglected".

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