



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

RACP calls for Manus Island detainees to be released into the community

27 April 2016

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has welcomed the pending closure of the Manus Island Detention Centre and is calling for the Federal Government to release all asylum seekers into the community whilst their claims are being processed.

RACP President, Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley urged the Federal Government to take note of the evidence of the significant harms caused by immigration detention.

“The RACP has been a long term proponent of asylum seekers being in community-based placements rather than being held in detention while refugee claims are assessed,” explained Professor Talley.

“The health impacts of detention centres can be devastating, both physically and mentally – particularly for children.

“The evidence is very clear - immigration detention centres are extremely harmful to health. Cases of sexual abuse, depression, anxiety and self-harm happen far too regularly and their impact can be life-long. Community-based placement is a viable and effective option,” he added.

Ends

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 15,000 physicians and 7,500 trainee physicians across Australia and New Zealand.

The College represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients.

The College offers 60 training pathways. These lead to the award of one of seven qualifications that align with 45 specialist titles recognised by the Medical Board of Australia or allow for registration in nine vocational scopes with the Medical Council of New Zealand.