



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

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RACP supports calls to release all children from detention

The Royal Australian College of Physicians says it supports the stand that doctors at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) have taken to protect the health and safety of children in detention.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said the health impacts on children held in detention can be devastating, both physically and mentally.

"Detention centres are no place for children. This situation is unacceptable and the RACP encourages the Government to respond swiftly to the recent Senate report that recommended the removal of all children and their families into the Australian community," he said.

The RACP particularly supports the following recommendations of the Committee -

- The complete removal of asylum seeker children and their families from detention on Nauru (Recommendation 11)
- A comprehensive audit of all allegations of sexual abuse, child abuse and other criminal conduct at the detention centre (Recommendation 13)
- New laws requiring mandatory reporting of any reasonable suspected unlawful sexual contact, sexual harassment, unreasonable use of force or other assault against asylum seekers (Recommendation 14)

"Time and again, the Australian public has seen inquiries and heard excuses for the wrongs committed against children inside these detention centres," Professor Talley said.

"The RACP will continue to advocate for the immediate end to immigration detention including the release of all children as well as for urgent amendments to the newly introduced Australian Border Force Act.

"The health and wellbeing of children should never be open to compromise. No child should be held in detention," he said.

Ends

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 14,950 physicians – often referred to as medical specialists – and 6,530 Trainee members across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents more than 34 medical specialties including paediatrics & child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology and public health medicine, occupational & environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation 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. www.racp.edu.au