



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

Release of children from onshore immigration detention welcomed by RACP

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The Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) welcomes the announcement that the last group of children held in mainland immigration detention centres have been released into the community.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley says the College has been a long term advocate for an immediate end to all immigration detention, including the release of all children.

“While we welcome this move, it’s worth reiterating that about 50 children still remain in the centre on Nauru, at severe risk of harm, awaiting processing,” Professor Talley explained.

“Immigration detention centres are extremely harmful to health and are a completely unacceptable place for children. The evidence is very clear – the impact of detention on children is profound, with severe and long-term health consequences a common occurrence.

“We know cases involving children and sexual abuse, depression, anxiety and self-harm happen far too regularly. We also know the devastating impacts of immigration detention hit children the hardest – they are society’s most vulnerable.

“The RACP will continue to advocate strongly for an end to all immigration detention and the immediate release of the 50 remaining children in Nauru.”

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Media contact: Olga Gerloff ph: (+61) 2 9256 9650 olga.gerloff@racp.edu.au

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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.