



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

RACP demands government transfer pregnant woman on Nauru to Australia

6 November 2015

Australasia's largest specialist medical college, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) is calling on the Australian Government to listen to paediatricians and immediately transfer a high risk pregnant woman in her fortieth week of a complicated pregnancy from Nauru to Australia.

RACP Paediatrics & Child Health Division President Dr Nicki Murdock said the Federal Government must act quickly and ensure this birth takes place in Australia where appropriate health care can be provided.

"Any mother likely to deliver a baby needing more than the most basic level of care must be transferred to Australia.

"If the services of a neonatologist are needed, it is likely the newborn will be sick and will need on-going care for at least one week.

"The health needs of babies requiring neonatal intensive care are unpredictable.

"Should the baby need assisted ventilation, it would be necessary to transfer the newborn to Australia for intensive care. Such transports are hazardous and can cause neurological injury or prove fatal.

"Neonatal intensive care requires an established team of staff, with appropriate training who are available 24/7.

"Intensive care also requires equipment, training and safety protocols to allow intravenous nutrition, temperature control and to ensure proper infection control, among many other things.

Dr Nicki Murdock said the Federal Government must immediately transfer the high risk pregnant woman to Australia to ensure the care needed is available.

"A transfer to Australia is the only reasonably available place for such care."

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