



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media statement

Protecting children report

1 April 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has highlighted the important role of paediatricians in protecting children from potential harm in the context of their families.

The report, '[Protecting Children is Everybody's Business](#)', outlines the importance of paediatricians in identifying vulnerability in children and interventions that will protect them from harm. In such situations protection is possible without statutory intervention.

Dr Terry Donald said the position statement will assist Australian and New Zealand paediatricians in their assessment and protection of children during critical stages of the children's lives.

Specific guidance is provided in the statement to paediatricians' involvement across the spectrum of child protection, recognising that their role and responsibilities vary and not all paediatricians will require training for statutory child protection work.

"It is important that paediatricians recognise the importance of primary and secondary child protection intervention early on, in addition to at the tertiary level. Early recognition will allow them to initiate interventions before any abuse to the child occurs.

"The Position Statement also highlights the importance of the statutory child protection system to protect children from further harm," Dr Donald said.

The report will be included in the RACP's submission to the National Framework for Protecting Children.

Ends

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 14,600 physicians – often referred to as medical specialists – and 6,000 Trainee members across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents more than 32 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