



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Statement

RACP paediatricians back Human Rights Commission report on children in detention

24 February 2015

The Paediatrics and Child Health Division (PCHD) of Australia's largest medical college, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has extended its support to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and its recent report, *'The Forgotten Children'*, which highlights the harm being caused to children in immigration detention.

In an open letter to the President of the AHRC, Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, PCHD President Dr Nicki Murdock expressed confidence in the report, which was tabled in parliament last week, and in PCHD members who worked with the Commission as part of this Inquiry.

"The report clearly and articulately describes the devastating and long lasting harms being inflicted on children.

"I and my colleagues take offence at their expertise and neutrality being questioned and undermined, and we are disappointed and frustrated that many have rejected the report's findings," Dr Murdock said.

RACP President, Professor Nick Talley has also expressed support for Professor Triggs and the AHRC's report, reiterating the College's call for the government to immediately remove all children from detention.

"The Government needs to act now and release all children from immigration detention in order to protect them from serious and potentially life-long harm," Professor Talley said.

The [open letter](#) can be viewed on the [RACP website](#).

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