



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

National support from medical groups to release all children from detention

30 October 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) today supported doctors and medical professionals around the country calling for an end to children in detention.

Rallies were held at the Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick, The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Liverpool Hospital. Doctors in Adelaide showed their support at the Women and Children's Hospital, while in Darwin they rallied at the Royal Darwin Hospital Campus.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said immigration detention is no place for children who have sought the protection of Australia.

"The devastating impacts of immigration detention hit children, society's most vulnerable, the hardest," he said.

"Putting children in detention centres is not only inhumane. It also takes an untold physical and mental health toll, and it must stop now."

The RACP renews its call for the Federal Government to remove all children and their families from detention and to move them into the Australian community, as recommended by the recent Senate report.

"As overwhelming momentum continues to build within Australia's medical community, how long can the Government continue to ignore these concerns?"

"The horrific conditions of immigration detention are well-documented and yet we continue to see the health of these children compromised.

"Government can no longer ignore the damage being caused. It must release all children and their families from detention facilities, both onshore and on Nauru immediately."

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.

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