



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

RACP supports calls to release children from immigration detention

Media Statement

27 January 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) supports calls from eight former Australians of the year to release all children from immigration detention centres.

RACP President Professor Nicholas Talley said holding children in detention is harmful to their mental and physical health.

“The evidence is clear and overwhelming that locking children in immigration detention causes harm that some children may never recover from.

“It is inhumane and clearly in breach of Australia’s human rights obligations.

“The Minister should release all children currently held in detention centres into the community, along with their families,” Professor Talley said.

The eight former winners of the Australian of the Year Award published an open letter to the Government on Australia Day labelling detention of children “inhumane and unnecessary”.

They included Prof Ian Frazer (2006), Prof Peter Doherty (1997), Ian Kiernan (1994), Prof Gustav Nossal (2000), Simon McKeon (2011), Geoffrey Rush (2012), Prof Fiona Stanley (2003), and Prof Pat McGorry (2010).

Ends

Media contact: Mark Franklin ph: (+61) 447 581 170 mark.franklin@racp.edu.au

Follow the RACP on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheRACP>

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