



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

Senate report confirms that Nauru detention is no place for children

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The Royal Australasian College of Physicians has welcomed the Senate Committee recommendation to release all children from immigration detention in Nauru.

RACP President, Laureate Professor Nick Talley said the Senate report confirms once again that children do not belong in detention.

“As outlined in the report, the tragic reality is that children in detention are vulnerable, and are not being protected from sexual harassment and assault,” he said.

“This situation is unacceptable. The RACP calls on the Government to respond swiftly to the Senate report and remove all children and their families into the Australian community.”

The RACP particularly supports the following recommendations of the Committee -

- The complete removal of asylum seeker children and their families from detention on Nauru (Recommendation 11)
- A comprehensive audit of all allegations of sexual abuse, child abuse and other criminal conduct at the detention centre (Recommendation 13)
- New laws requiring mandatory reporting of any reasonable suspected unlawful sexual contact, sexual harassment, unreasonable use of force or other assault against asylum seekers (Recommendation 14)

“Time and again, the Australian public has seen inquiries and heard excuses for the wrongs committed against children inside these detention centres,” Professor Talley said.

“The RACP will continue to advocate for the immediate end to immigration detention including release of all children as well as for urgent amendments to the newly introduced Australian Border Force Act.

“The health and wellbeing of children should never be open to compromise,” he said.

“No child should be held in detention.”

Ends

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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