



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

## Media Release

### **RACP welcomes Australia's response to increase intake of refugees**

9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians welcomes the Federal Government's announcement today to resettle 12,000 refugees from Syria, over and above the existing humanitarian intake.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said images published across the world in recent days have illustrated the extent of the Syrian refugee crisis, and the urgent need for Australia and other countries to do their fair share in terms of resettlement.

"The impact on the health and wellbeing of families and children who have been forced to flee their homes is unfathomable.

"Health systems in Syria's neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan are under immense strain due to people fleeing the dreadful and deteriorating conditions in Syria.

"The conditions and services in refugee camps in these countries are also drastically underfunded with appropriate health care a significant challenge.

"Australia has the wealth, capacity and medical expertise to provide these people safe haven and access to the appropriate healthcare they need.

"As well as resettling a greater number of refugees from Syria, the Australian government must also immediately end mandatory detention and release all asylum seekers into the community. We must stop the harms to people's health that detention is causing.

Australia should take this opportunity to address the systemic barriers to accessing healthcare that refugees in our community often face. More can and should be done across Australia to ensure those we have resettled receive the healthcare they need without cultural, linguistic and logistical barriers.

**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](http://www.racp.edu.au)