



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

RACP disappointed in High Court ruling against asylum seekers

Media Release

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The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) is today disappointed by the ruling of the High Court which will likely result in the return of 267 asylum seekers to offshore detention centres, many of whom were brought to Australia for medical reasons.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said the ruling was most concerning for the children involved – including 37 infants and 54 children.

“Detention centres are no place for children. The health and developmental impacts are profound – with severe and long-term health consequences,” explained Professor Talley.

The RACP represents the interests of the 23,000 physicians across Australasia and Professor Talley said paediatricians from its membership had seen first-hand the impact of immigration detention on children.

“Many of our members have chosen to speak out as they have seen the physical and mental health toll of the affected children. The devastating impacts of immigration detention hit children the hardest.

“The RACP will continue to advocate for the immediate end to immigration detention, including the release of all children, and for urgent amendments to the Australian Border Force Act that threatens doctors speaking out on behalf of their patients,” he added.

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 15,000 physicians and 7,500 trainee physicians across Australia and New Zealand.

The College represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric 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.

The College offers 60 training pathways. These lead to the award of one of seven qualifications that align with 45 specialist titles recognised by the Medical Board of Australia or allow for registration in nine vocational scopes with the Medical Council of New Zealand.