



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

Calls from medical groups to release all children from detention intensify

13 November 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) today backed action by doctors and medical professionals in Western Australia calling for an end to children in detention.

Demonstrations held in Perth continued to build on the momentum of previous rallies held Australia-wide in October.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said the latest calls to release children from immigration detention are further proof of the medical profession's determination to protect society's most vulnerable individuals.

"Children who end up in immigration detention are being exposed to shocking conditions that put their physical and mental health at risk," Professor Talley said.

"A detention centre is no place for a child. In some cases, the damages to health sustained in immigration detention can be life-changing and irreversible."

Hospitals where rallies have taken place include Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in Brisbane, Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, the Women and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, the Royal Darwin Hospital Campus and Newcastle Hospital.

In Sydney, rallies have been held at the Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick, The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Liverpool Hospital.

Professor Talley said the RACP will continue to call for the Federal Government to remove all children and their families from detention and to move them into the Australian community.

"The medical community is committed to seeing an end to the inhumane treatment and horrific conditions children are being exposed to," he said.

"The government can try to ignore our demands but evidence tells us that the longer we wait for change, the longer the health of children will continue to be compromised."

The RACP will continue to advocate for the immediate end to immigration detention including the release of all children as well as urgent amendments to the 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