COMMITTEE OF PRESIDENTS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

POSITION STATEMENT

NO CHILDREN IN DETENTION

10 August 2016

The Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges is the peak body representing Australia’s doctors specialising in medicine. CPMC is committed to ensuring the community has the highest quality of medical care to improve, protect and promote the health of all Australians.

CPMC is concerned that Australia’s policy of mandatory detention of children in off-shore processing sites such as the Republic of Nauru is detrimental to their development and mental health, with evidence that detention has long-term effects to social and emotional functioning.

CPMC is concerned immigration detention centres are not equipped to provide the educational facilities to develop children. Medical practitioners employed by immigration detention centres are faced with the ethical dilemma of being required to provide medical care in an environment that is causing harm and where the doctor-patient relationship is constrained by obligations placed on them by the employer.

CPMC opposes the detention of children of asylum seekers and their families because it is detrimental to their health and wellbeing. CPMC recommends community detention as a more humanitarian approach to use while their claims are being processed.

For media contact Professor Nicholas Talley, CPMC Chair on 0437 866 000

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