



Refugee Council of Australia

Media Release – for immediate release

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Refugee Council urges release of children from detention

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) welcomes the announcement that the Australian Greens will seek to amend the Migration Act to ensure that children are not held in immigration detention.

"Children are being detained for prolonged periods in detention facilities. A policy change which would see their release into the community would be a positive step." Paul Power, CEO of RCOA said.

"The practice of detaining children has been shown to cause significant harm to children, particularly those who have fled horrific situations of war or persecution. If there isn't a change in the detention policy soon, we will soon see a significant increase in the levels of severe emotional distress and mental anguish in those children." Mr Power said.

RCOA has long advised Governments that there are a range of options that could be used in order to release children and their families from detention, while ensuring that any security concerns are addressed. The Refugee Council urges the Government to explore those options as a matter of priority, to ensure that children can be removed from detention facilities.

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