



22 February 2016

DO THE RIGHT THING BY CHILDREN IN DETENTION

The Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) today stands in solidarity with the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The college is calling on the Federal Government to bring about immediate regulatory and legislative reform to ensure that all asylum seekers and refugees under Australian care have access to the same level of health care as Australian citizens.

ACIPC President, Professor Ramon Shaban, speaking in support of AMA President Brian Owler, said "Health care professionals have an explicit duty of care to asylum seekers and refugees.

"As healthcare professionals, we have explicit legal obligations towards patients in our care. We also have clear ethical and moral obligations towards them as members of a civilised society, no more or less than any other patient in our care.

"The current state of affairs, where the State or Commonwealth seeks to unilaterally determine the health and medical decisions of children in detention, risks compromising the care decisions and medical outcomes for patients.

"As a result the fundamental human rights of children in detention are not being protected. We believe this is unacceptable and not something the ACIPC, its members, or a civilised society should tolerate.

"Today we stand beside our AMA colleagues. This is the right thing to do," he said.

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For interviews please contact Professor Ramon Shaban 0478 312 668.

About ACIPC

The ACIPC is the peak body for Infection Prevention and Control in the Australasian region. The college supports infection prevention and control professionals by providing them with support, networking, knowledge and up to date information relevant to their area of practice. www.acipc.org.au