

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of Christian Australian residents, draws to the attention of the House:

It is a well-attested fact that children held in detention for long periods suffer disproportionately from mental illness and high degrees of anxiety. Furthermore, the longer detention lasts, the greater is the proportion of those who develop these symptoms.

We therefore request the House to:

Remove, as a matter of urgency, all children, together with their accompanying parents, from off-shore detention facilities, and that they be re-settled in the Australian community while their claims are being processed. We commend the Government for recent decisions regarding children in on-shore detention, and request that equal treatment be afforded to those on Christmas Island, Manus Island and Nauru.