



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

From the President

19 October 2012

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Dennett

Re: Migration Assessment (Health Care for Asylum Seekers) Bill 2012

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Migration Assessment (Health Care for Asylum Seekers) Bill 2012. The RACP believes that Australia has significant human rights responsibilities to safeguard the health and wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers in our country. In particular, we are concerned for the health impact of immigration detention on children.

Fellows of the RACP have previously provided advice to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship via the Detention Health Advisory Group (DeHAG). These Fellows have contributed to the submission prepared by former DeHAG members.

The RACP has reviewed this submission and is pleased to endorse it. The submission covers the key factors that the RACP considers important, including promotion of mental wellbeing, screening, adequate training and ongoing development for staff, critical incident response policies, and quality health service provision.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Dive, Senior Policy Officer, at
if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Dr John O'Donnell
Acting President

A/Prof Susan Moloney
President
Paediatric & Child Health Division