



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**August 20, 2018**

It takes a village to raise a child. What sort of a village is a prison (detention centre) where people who have committed no crime are handcuffed to attend medical appointments.

All children have a right to a childhood in a loving, secure environment where they are free and enjoy the pleasures of a care free childhood. What sort of an environment are we giving children in onshore and offshore detention where they see their parents humiliated, mistreated and traumatised and where their movement is severely restricted.

We do not want this life for our children or grandchildren. Take a moment to look at your local school, at the children learning, playing, enjoying outings, having fun at school fetes and know that this is an experience children on Nauru and in detention centres in Australia do not have.

Rural Australians for Refugees call on the Australian Government to demonstrate humanity and ensure that there is no child in offshore or onshore detention by the end of this month.

Punishing children to deter people seeking our protection from coming to our shores is uncivilised and barbaric. Australians in rural communities are well known for offering a helping hand to those in need and insisting on a 'fair go' for all.

These children have not had a fair go they have been robbed of the childhood that we take as a matter of course for our families.

**Marie Sellstrom**

**President Rural Australians for Refugees**

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