



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



WEST AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC
MIGRANT & REFUGEE OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

To: News Editor
From: West Australian Catholic Migrant &
Refugee Office
wacmro.perthcatholic.org.au
or 92205950

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Church leaders stand with #KidsOffNauru

Echoing the calls made by refugee advocates across Australia, Western Australian churches are disappointed to see the Government continuing to persist in the practice of indefinite detention of vulnerable human persons against their will on Nauru and Manus Island.

The Western Australian churches urge the Government to re-consider this policy which is increasingly being understood by the community as an *act of cruelty*. This may not be an intended consequence of the mandatory detention policy but it is now a reality, perceived or otherwise.

With this in mind, such practice needs to be addressed not only for the sake of the human person in detention but also because, by way of its continuing unresolved nature, it has the capacity to threaten the social cohesion of the Australian community.

Fairness and *what is considered fair* is a core fabric binding the Australian community together. It is something which is inherently understood and valued by the Australian community and it is something which the community, increasingly, sees as being abused by the Australian Government in the context of indefinite mandatory detention.

Rev. Steve Francis, Moderator of the Uniting Church Western Australia, The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy, Archbishop of Perth and Metropolitan of Western Australia, the Anglican Social Responsibilities Commission and Rev. Deacon Greg Lowe, Director of the Western Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office *urge Parliament to support the immediate transfer of all remaining asylum seeker children and their families from Nauru to Australia to receive medical care.*

Ends

For further comment contact Dcn. Greg Lowe on 9220 5950