



**END**

**CHILD  
DETENTION  
COALITION**

**2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

[endchilddetentionoz.com](https://endchilddetentionoz.com)



# END CHILD DETENTION COALITION

Who we are

The End Child Detention Coalition Australia Ltd (ECDC) is currently made up of 26 member organisations from across Australia, amongst which there is a total of 150 staff, around 1,200 volunteers and approximately 220,000 supporters across all States and Territories. Collectively, these organisations possess a wealth of experience in policy and advocacy, as well as years of experience working effectively together. The End Child Detention Coalition advocates for the release of children from immigration detention and takes the position that detention is never in the best interests of a child. Our membership reflects a diverse cross section of Australia's civil society. The coalition also has collaborative partnerships with many organisations based both in Australia and overseas.

# OUR MISSION

The company's purpose is to relieve suffering of children and their families who have been affected by immigration detention by supporting organisations assisting children and their families affected by immigration detention by, without limitation:

- *a) coordinating the provision of services;*
- *b) promoting alternatives to immigration detention;*
- *c) advocating for the release of children being held in immigration detention facilities; and*
- *d) raising awareness of the harm caused to children in detention*

# OUR STRUCTURE

End Child Detention Coalition is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) with the subtypes: Advancing social or public welfare; and Public benevolent institution (PBI).

The effective date of registration as a charity is 1 July 2017, and registration with the subtype PBI is effective from 13 June 2018 (being the date ECDC's constitution was amended).

THANK YOU

The End Child Detention Coalition would like to thank our members and supporters from around all the States and Territories in Australia for their continuing support this year.

Thank you all for your energy and commitment to the work as a member of the End Child Detention Coalition, for your willingness to share your knowledge and to continue the effective collaboration that drives this campaign.

We would also like to extend our particular thanks and gratitude to the generosity and support from our sponsors and donors.

**A special thank you to ...**

RSM Australia Pty Ltd for their work on our annual audit.

Cameron Hume and Magdalena Maksimovski

Catholic Mission for their book-keeping assistance.

Andrew Hurt and Gigi Par-Adriano

# Directors Report

We began 2020 with great inspiration and hope by attending the Refugee Alternatives Conference in Brisbane. This was also an important gathering for ECDC supporters as we used the opportunity to meet with and introduce new participants to the work of ECDC. We were building on the decisions that emanated from our annual strategy day in September 2019. Thanks to Effie Mitchell and VivCourt who generously hosted the day for us in their Sydney office and Tina Kothari for her wonderful support in facilitating this day.

The September 2019 workshop had especially raised the need for inclusion and leadership from people with lived experience of the asylum seeker journey, and we have been grateful to have active leadership from Dominic Hồng Đức Golding, Policy & Projects Officer from National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) who has been working with us to determine the best structure to achieve this.

We were working to reinforce our strategic work and build our working groups with a critical point being a meeting with detention solicitor Alison Battison in Melbourne on 12 March 2020. We made solid plans and were set to progress these when COVID impacted all of our partners leading to resource restrictions and a re-ordering of priorities.

We persevered with our priorities of member engagement; fundraising strategically (submitting several applications for funding in 2019) and our continued lobbying and political engagement.

In 2019-2020 we built support for the work of ECDC with specialist health professionals and legal experts who are prepared to engage in community forums and webinars to encourage dialogue and obtain support for this legislative protection. Unfortunately, the opportunities for community forums were limited due to COVID restrictions, so we created some new opportunities via the use of webinars. Our first webinar focused on the legal and health implications of detention with prominent guests Professor David Isaacs and solicitor Alison Battison in conversation with Hayat Akbari, youth advocate and solicitor with lived experience of child detention.

The webinar series begun in June 2020 has allowed us to engage broadly with our supporters and colleagues as well those exploring the issue for the first time. One important influence on the work of ECDC is the research of Dr Sarah Mares.

# Directors Report

Psychiatrist, Dr Mares has developed a clear articulation of the mental health consequences of detaining children who seek asylum in Australia. In her 2020 thesis she examines the research from 2002 to 2019 concluding 'children in detention have markedly worse social-emotional wellbeing at all ages than their community-based counterparts'. Dr Mares's research has given us a new opportunity to emphasise the mental health frame in our work.

We continue our two phased strategic approach of Political and Community Engagement. It is anticipated that the work of legislative protection will be delivered by the end of 2022. The work will consist of continued political engagement across parties with existing stakeholders, and new target electorates.

The parallel strategy of community engagement utilises the skills and knowledge of health and legal experts in this field both creating new and tapping into existing opportunities for community conversations around this issue with the aim of influencing public opinion and harnessing support for this legislative change.

An extension of the community engagement strategy is our plan to support the Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (CRSI) by promoting and participating in this scheme that is being piloted from October 2020 to March 2021. ECDC aims to encourage more groups to take up the opportunity of sponsoring families, who have refugee status, to settle in communities around Australia. The take-up of this scheme will affect community attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers, allowing people to engage with families who have this lived experience of seeking safety.

The Executive Committee and all members of ECDC are enormously indebted to our Project Officer Michelle Ferns who worked tirelessly to support the work of ECDC for the last four years. Michelle completed her contract with us in April 2020.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Margaret Rasa (Rural Australians for Refugees) who served as a director and executive member during the last financial year. We thank Margaret for her contribution to the work of ECDC.

Jenny Collins-White on behalf of the Directors and Executive

The thesis is now publicly available in the university library at this link [https://flex.flinders.edu.au/file/b8741bbf-6879-4b29-9eb5-c40075953da1/1/MaresThesis2020\\_MasterCopy.pdf](https://flex.flinders.edu.au/file/b8741bbf-6879-4b29-9eb5-c40075953da1/1/MaresThesis2020_MasterCopy.pdf)

# Our achievements

## ❖ **Annual strategy day in September 2019**

Determined the need for inclusion and leadership from people with lived experience of the asylum seeker journey and for working group structure

## ❖ **Refugee Alternative conference – February 2020**

Jenny, Liesje & Marg Rasa attended RCOA conference. Great opportunity for networking & hearing from many voices of lived experience

## ❖ **The legal Perspective - March 2020**

meeting in with detention solicitor Alison Battison to relook at our policy ask

## ❖ **COVID response – March 2020**

Re-assessment of current strategy & the reality that many members, including Exec Committee, have reduced capacity. Also, reduced Parliamentary sitting schedule, led to pause of lobbying work to attain legislative change for children in detention and assist with the sector campaigns that have a focus on families and children. Focus on maintenance & support

# Our achievements

## ❖ **State of Play' webinars – June & September 2020**

moderated by Hayat Akbari – chair of APRRN Youth working group

The Legal Perspective with Prof David Isaacs and Lawyer Alison Battison - explored the issues surrounding the achievement of legislative change to end child immigration detention.

The Mental Health Perspective with Dr Sarah Mares - Explored the impact of closed detention on children, hearing their voices through their drawings interpreted by Dr Sarah Mares. Provided an evidenced-based understanding of 1. how locked detention drives poor mental health in children that is additional to their pre-detention trauma 2. some of the ethical challenges facing health professionals engaged in the detention system.

## ❖ **Submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability – November 2020**

Submission outlined how the long-term mandatory detention of children with disabilities also imposes immense barriers to their eventual participation and integration into the general community. Recommendations made for widespread legislative adoption of alternatives to placing children in immigration detention, through community-based settlement pathways, programs and models such as 'Residence Determination' and 'Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiatives'.

## ❖ **Coalition building - ongoing**

Reconnecting with existing members

Building new relationships – church & secular agencies



# Theory of Change

Strategy 2020 -  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18ofsIMGBKBtwW2KuVLxCBO4\\_u5ZWo96V?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18ofsIMGBKBtwW2KuVLxCBO4_u5ZWo96V?usp=sharing)

<p>Program Objective: The purpose of the End Child Detention Coalition is to relieve the suffering of children and their families who have been affected by immigration detention. We support <u>organisations</u> assisting children and their families affected by immigration detention by and without limitation:</p> <p>(a) coordinating the provision of services;          (b) promoting alternatives to immigration detention;          (c) advocating for the release of children being held in immigration detention facilities; and          (d) raising awareness of the harm caused to children in detention.</p>					
<p><b>Problem statement</b></p> <p>Australia is the only country to detain children as a first measure <u>and also</u> for the longest period of time.</p> <p>Although there are currently low numbers of children in locked immigration detention, this is at the discretion of the Minister.</p> <p>Other government policies could lead to increased numbers of children with families being held in locked immigration detention.</p>	<p><b>Inputs (Enablers &amp; resources)</b></p> <p>Qualified and experienced Directorship</p> <p>Engaged coalition members</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Strategic partner <u>organisations</u></p> <p>Research and evidence about what <u>works</u></p> <p>Facilitation models/skills and guidance materials</p>	<p><b>Outputs: Activities</b></p> <p>Political Engagement:            Meet with target MP's            Meet with Department influencers</p> <p>Community Engagement:            Hold webinars and other public educational experiences</p> <p>Meet with community groups to educate and encourage political engagement and by-in for CRSI</p> <p>Meet with coalition members to strengthen coalition and encourage their involvement in political and community engagement</p>	<p><b>Outputs: Participation</b></p> <p>Increased bi-partisan political appetite and champion for legislative change to ensure children are not held in locked detention</p> <p>Increased public awareness and support for policies that protect children. Empowered constituents who are effective in lobbying local politicians</p> <p>Better engagement with sector and identified stakeholders</p>	<p><b>Short-term outcomes</b></p> <p>Legislative change to ensure children are not detained in locked immigration detention but placed in the community with family or appropriate guardianship.</p> <p>Participate in the pilot of the CRSI scheme to encourage its adoption</p>	<p><b>Long-term outcomes / impact</b></p> <p>All children deserve the right to their freedom, the opportunity for education and to grow up in a safe and supportive environment.</p> <p>UNCRC</p> <p>Australia to implement an effective model of CRS that is appropriate and achievable for communities across Australia</p> <p>Communities engaged and committed to the sponsorship program</p> <p> </p>
<p>Assumptions:            CRSI pilot scheme will be successful &amp; adopted by Australian government</p> <p>.....</p>		<p>External Factors: Media and political rhetoric, community events that impact on narrative COVID-19 and other external catastrophic events that lead to further displacement of peoples</p> <p>Evaluation:</p>			

# OUR MEMBERS

## FULL MEMBERS

Asylum Seekers Centre  
Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office  
Australian Lawyers for Human Rights  
Australian Muslim Women's Association  
Australian Young Christian Students (AYCS)  
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP)  
Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)  
Catholic Mission  
Catholic Religious Australia  
Global Campaign to End Child Detention  
Hazara Women of Australia Inc. (HWA)  
Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS)

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS)  
Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW)  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF SA Branch)  
Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN)  
Circle of Friends Australia Inc  
Child Rights Australia  
Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network (DASSAN)  
Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children (GADRC) Sydney  
House of Welcome  
Justice for Refugees SA  
Montmorency Asylum Seeker Support Group (MASSG)  
National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) on behalf of Disabled People's Organisations Australia  
Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR)  
Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)  
Uniting Church in Australia  
House of Welcome

# OUR PEOPLE

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jenny Collins-White, Catholic Mission

Carolina Gottardo, Jesuit Refugee Services

Leeanne Torpey

Margaret Rasa – resigned 12 June 2020

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Jenny Collins-White, Chair - Catholic Mission

Carolina Gottardo, Chair - Jesuit Refugee Services

Liesje Barratt Secretary, - Catholic Mission

Nishadh Rego – Jesuit Refugee Services

Denisse Sandoval – Uniting Churches in Australia (Justice and International Mission Unit of the Uniting Church in VIC/TAS)

Margaret Rasa – resigned 12 June 2020

## **CONTRACTORS**

Michelle Oledan Ferns – resigned March 2020

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

Annual financial report for the year ended 30  
June 2020

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JnUY6fcw8Ju  
CXo8nKTUYzDpyc19QuySE/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JnUY6fcw8JuCXo8nKTUYzDpyc19QuySE/view?usp=sharing)

End Child Detention Coalition Australia Ltd  
Insurances: <https://bit.ly/2Ot30Fq>

End Child Detention Coalition Australia Ltd  
book-keeping and accounts has been  
completed by Catholic Mission.

Annual audit has been completed by RSM  
Australia Pty Ltd – Cameron Hume, Partner.



**End Child Detention Coalition Australia Ltd**  
ABN 17 619 856 441

**Statement of financial position**  
**As at 30 June 2020**

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	2,756	14,455
Prepayments		2,895	-
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>5,651</u>	<u>14,455</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>5,651</u>	<u>14,455</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payables	4	-	4,782
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>4,782</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>4,782</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>5,651</u>	<u>9,673</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		5,651	9,673
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>5,651</u>	<u>9,673</u>

# FINANCES

Thank you for  
joining us

The End Child Detention Coalition is now active online.

You can [like us on Facebook](#), [follow us on Twitter](#) and [subscribe to our YouTube channel](#).

Even a small contribution can help us to continue advocating for change and you can donate via our [website](#)

If you would like to explore opportunities of joining our community or political engagement working groups, please [email](#) us.

