

Position statement

Health of people seeking asylum

In support of ensuring universal *access to safe affordable surgery and anaesthesia, when needed* including adequate pain relief, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Faculty of Pain Medicine (ANZCA), Australian Society of Anaesthetists and New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists believe that:

- Access to healthcare including safe surgery, anaesthesia and pain management is a basic human right and should not be compromised for those seeking asylum.
- The conditions in detention facilities, in onshore, offshore and regional processing centres should not compromise the mental and physical health of asylum seekers.
- Long-term, severe negative health outcomes can result from prolonged detention and uncertainty.
- Detaining children can have profound detrimental impacts on the health and development of this already highly vulnerable group.

References:

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