

From ‘#LetThemStay’ to ‘KidsOffNauru’, Reflections for child-centred campaigning

Natasha Blucher – Advocacy Consultant- @tash_nf

Arif Hussein – Lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre - @ArifHRLC

Re-establishment of Offshore Processing

- Australian government re-established offshore processing in August 2012
- People arriving in Australia to seeking asylum on or after 19 July 2013 face permanent ban on resettlement in Australia
- At its height 2450 were held in Australia's offshore processing centre on Nauru and Manus Island, PNG
- This included 222 children who were held in Nauru

Medical Crisis Offshore

This article is more than 4 years old

Australia's detention regime sets out to make asylum seekers suffer, says chief immigration psychiatrist

"We have here an environment that is inherently toxic," Dr Peter Young told Guardian Australia. "It has characteristics which over time reliably cause harm to people's mental health. We have very clear evidence that that's the case."

Self-harming is 'seen as bad behaviour' - video



708

POLITICS FEDERAL

Manus Island asylum seekers in mental health crisis

By Michael Gordon

May 26, 2014 – 3.00am



[The Pulse Politics Live with Judith Ireland](#)



About half the asylum seekers in detention on Manus Island and Nauru are suffering from significant depression, stress or anxiety, according to clinical assessments.

Their situation is worse than for those in detention on the mainland and on Christmas Island, where a third are suffering major mental health problems, the assessments reveal.

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SYDNEY METRO

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59 minutes ago



NRL OFF-FIELD BEHAVIOUR

Embattled rugby league commissioner Mark Coyne: I'll resign if they want me to
2 hours ago



FESTIVAL DEATHS

Staff at fatal festival sent to Bunnings for fans as

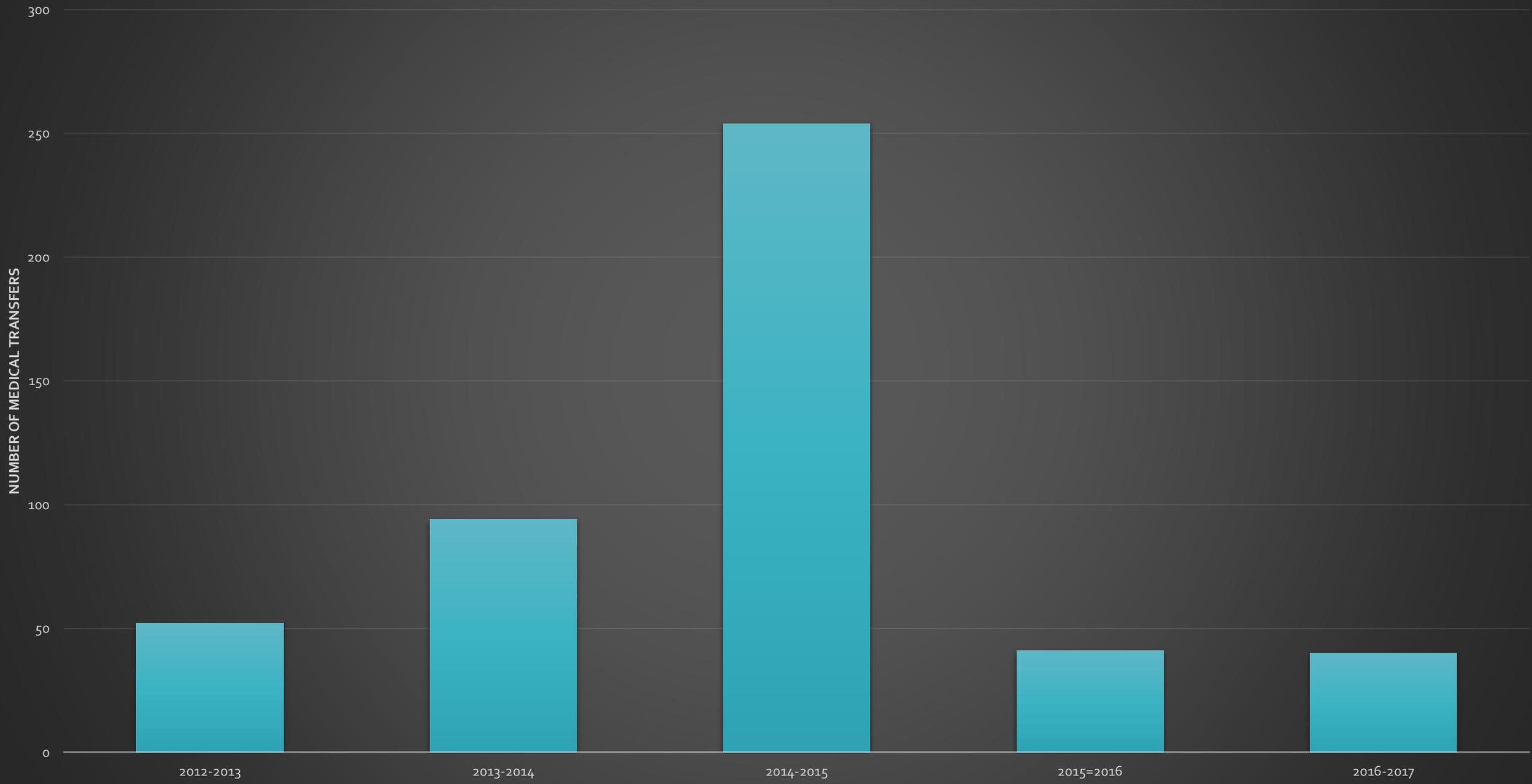


Lack of appropriate treatment

- Detention fatigue
- Lack of appropriate facilities
- Lethal hopelessness
- Chronic conditions left untreated
- Compounded trauma



Medical Transfer to Australia





"M68"

The race to prevent offshore transfers

Return to Nauru & Manus

This article is more than 3 years old

Australia secretly flies pregnant refugee out of country before hearing

Government uses chartered flight to get Somali woman, who asked for an abortion after being raped, out of Australia as an injunction application is made

Comment: **Flying a refugee to Nauru in secret: is this extraordinary rendition?**



Royal Children's Hospital doctors refuse to return children to detention

By Patrick Hatch, Judith Ireland and Chloe Booker

Updated October 11, 2015 – 4.11pm, first published October 10, 2015 – 11.06pm

f t e A A A

Victoria's Health Minister Jill Hennessy has thrown her support behind doctors at the Royal Children's Hospital who have refused to discharge asylum seeker children back into detention.

Doctors at the hospital are concerned about the welfare of their dozens of patients and say it would be unethical to discharge them to unsafe conditions that could compromise their health.

TODAY'S TOP STORIES

COURTS

Tinder rapist posed as an 'international man of mystery', court hears

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Wage theft is a business model. Let's criminalise it

GEORGE CALOMBARIS

Calls for MasterChef to axe George Calombaris over wages scandal

FIRE

Several people presumed dead in suspected arson at animation



#LetThemStay

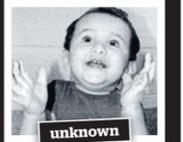
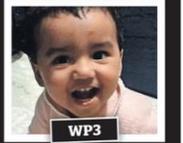
A nation wide campaign to prevent removal of people back to offshore processing centres



THE AGE

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\$2.50
Tuesday
February 2, 2016
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Melbourne since 1854
theage.com.au



Babies bound for 'HELL'

Baby Samuel, above, was born in Darwin after his mother, an asylum seeker held on Nauru, was brought to mainland Australia with pregnancy complications. If the Turnbull government wins a High Court case tomorrow, it plans to send Samuel, his family and 36 other babies back to a place Samuel's mother calls "the end of the world". "It is like hell," she says.

REPORTS & ANALYSIS NEWS Pages 6-7

Weather

Today Patchy fog clearing
Tomorrow Shower or two clearing
Thursday Partly cloudy
Details

16 - 29
19 - 21
15 - 21
Page 33

Odd Spot

Police have charged a Chicago man who kept an alligator in his basement for more than 25 years. Charles Price kept the two-metre alligator, which weighed about 90 kilograms, as a pet in a cage and occasionally allowed it to roam in his garden before neighbours alerted authorities. Price bought it illegally at a swap meet.



BusinessDay

Non-profit health funds under threat
Page 19

Reduction in medical transfers to Australia

- Indefinite offshore detention was leading to a growing medical crisis
- At the same time medical transfer to Australia reduced

12. The result of these initiatives has seen a significant decline in the number of medical transfers from Nauru and Manus to Australia, as demonstrated below:

	Transfers in 2014/15 year	Transfers in 2015/16 year (to 26 April 2016)	Percent decrease
Manus to Australia	130	7	94.6%
Nauru to Australia	410	35	91.4%
Total	540	42	92.2%

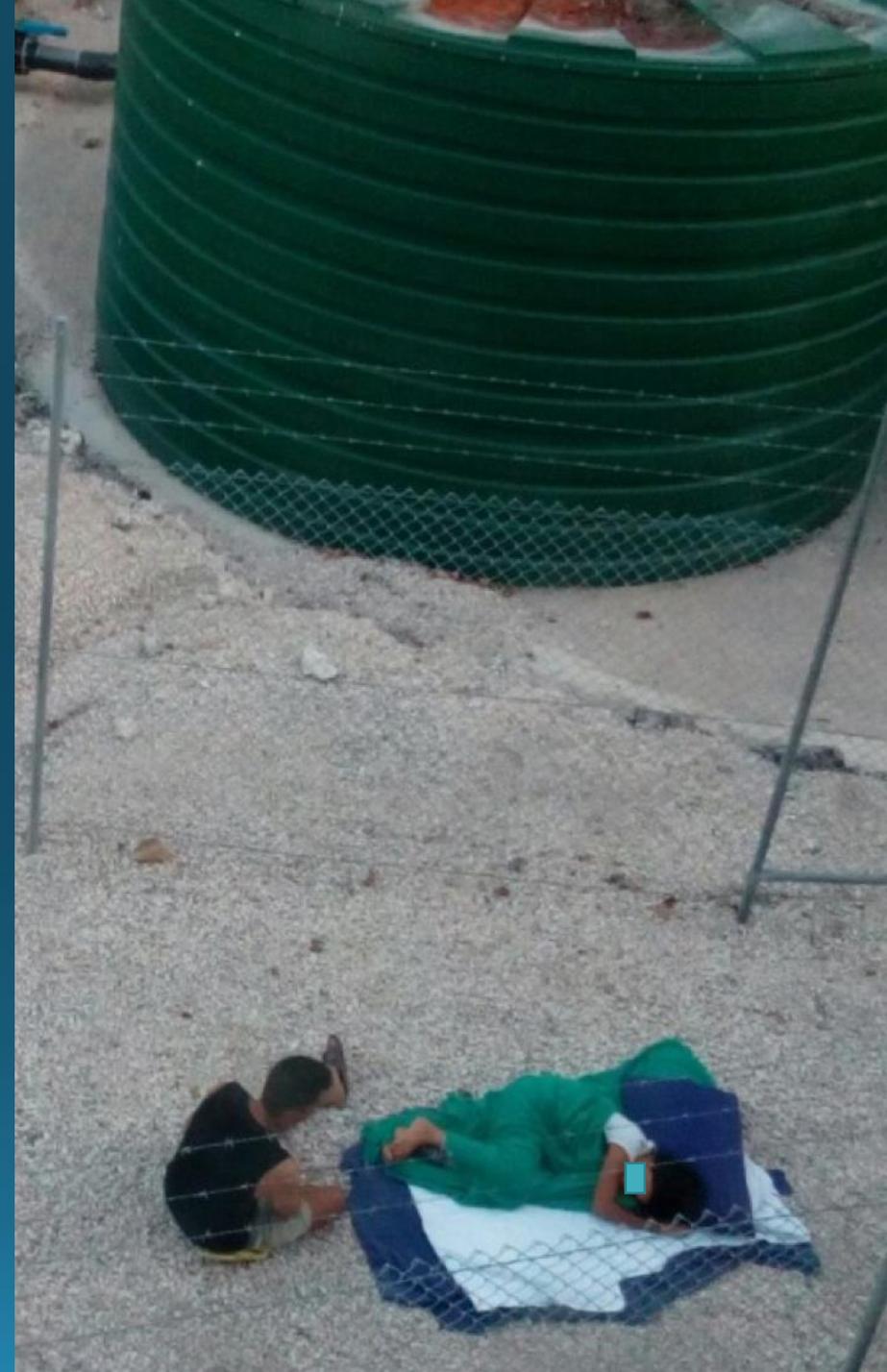
Suicide and self-harm contagion in children

- Suicide attempts and self harm
- Traumatic withdrawal syndrome
- Impact of prolonged lethal hopelessness
- Manifestation of extreme distress



#KidsOffNauru

- Considerations
 - Campaigning vs legal avenue to get kids off
 - The feared impact of publicity on the contagion
- Informed consent – what is it?
 - Legal risk
 - Safety risk (home and in situ)
 - Understanding the potential impact (or lack thereof)
 - The child's best interest
 - Managing the power dynamic and ensuring the power to say 'stop'
 - The therapeutic value of campaign involvement
 - Risk of individual harm for population-wide impact



Risks

- Refugees, and children sharing their story in the context of campaign in a heated policy area do so at significant personal risk, including:
 - Discrimination
 - Reprisals from the government
 - Backlash
 - Negative consequences for family

Psycho-social risks

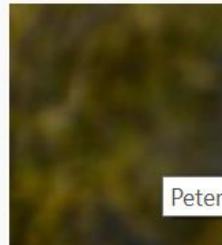
- Raised expectations leading to increased hopelessness
- Triggering of trauma symptoms (eg. flashbacks, nightmares)
- Difficulties in family dynamic (particularly parent/child relationship)
- Impact on the child (school, as a teenager, adulthood)

Peter Dutton says refugees self-harming to get to Australia, warns against Nauru abuse reports 'hype'

By political reporter [Stephanie Anderson](#)

Updated 11 Aug 2016, 3:03pm

Peter Dutton has responded to the [leaking of thousands of files alleging abuse of children and adults in Nauru's offshore immigration detention centre](#) by saying some refugees are self-harming and filing false claims in an effort to get to Australia.



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Mother of asylum baby Asha accused of 'burning' the one-year-old so she could come to Australia

- Asylum seeker baby Asha's mother accused of intentionally burning her
- Staff at Brisbane's Lady Cilento Hospital rejected the accusation
- A Nauru guard claimed the mother admitted to purposefully burning her
- QLD police received child protection notification but finalised investigation

[AUSTRALIA](#) and [AAP](#)
February 2016 | **UPDATED:** 08:08 AEST, 24 February 2016

Peter Dutton Implied Refugees Are Deliberately Hurting Their Kids To Claim Asylum In Parliament Today

Asylum seeker scammers exploiting Aussie medical welfare to live rent-free in Sydney

EXCLUSIVE: UP TO 70 asylum seekers have been caught out using a medical scam to live rent-free in Sydney, with one sprung even using taxpayer dollars to pay prostitutes.

Sharri Markson, National Political Editor, The Daily Telegraph

Subscriber only | August 28, 2017 5:29am



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CASE STUDIES:

- 1. An Iranian male transferred from an RPC for medical treatment. Moved into community detention after treatment completed. That community detention was revoked after he displayed criminal sexual behaviour towards a female case worker. When questioned about that behaviour he said he was in financial stress because he spent all of his money on prostitutes.*
- 2. An Iraqi male transferred from an RPC for medical treatment for a stomach complaint. That treatment has been completed and he has been independently assessed as medically fit to return to the RPC, but has taken legal action preventing his return. His wife children and parents all live in Iraq.*
- 3. A Sri Lankan national was transferred from an RPC for treatment of arthritis and rashes. Has been found not to be a refugee through several processes, but refuses to leave.*
- 4. A Bangladeshi national transferred for treatment of lower back pain. Doctors found no surgery was needed and recommended physiotherapy. He has taken legal action preventing his return.*
- 5. An Iranian national suffered a back injury after falling off gym equipment. Treated in Australia, his injury no longer requires specialist treatment. Years later he remains in Australia and has taken legal action preventing his return to an RPC.*

Additional factors

- When everything about the lives of people held offshore is controlled by the government telling their story can be powerful
- Responsibility to allow children and people held offshore and other vulnerable groups to tell their story the way they want, and allow them to make the decision not to tell their story if they wish
- Informed consent – an ongoing balancing act

Thank You