



ChilOut

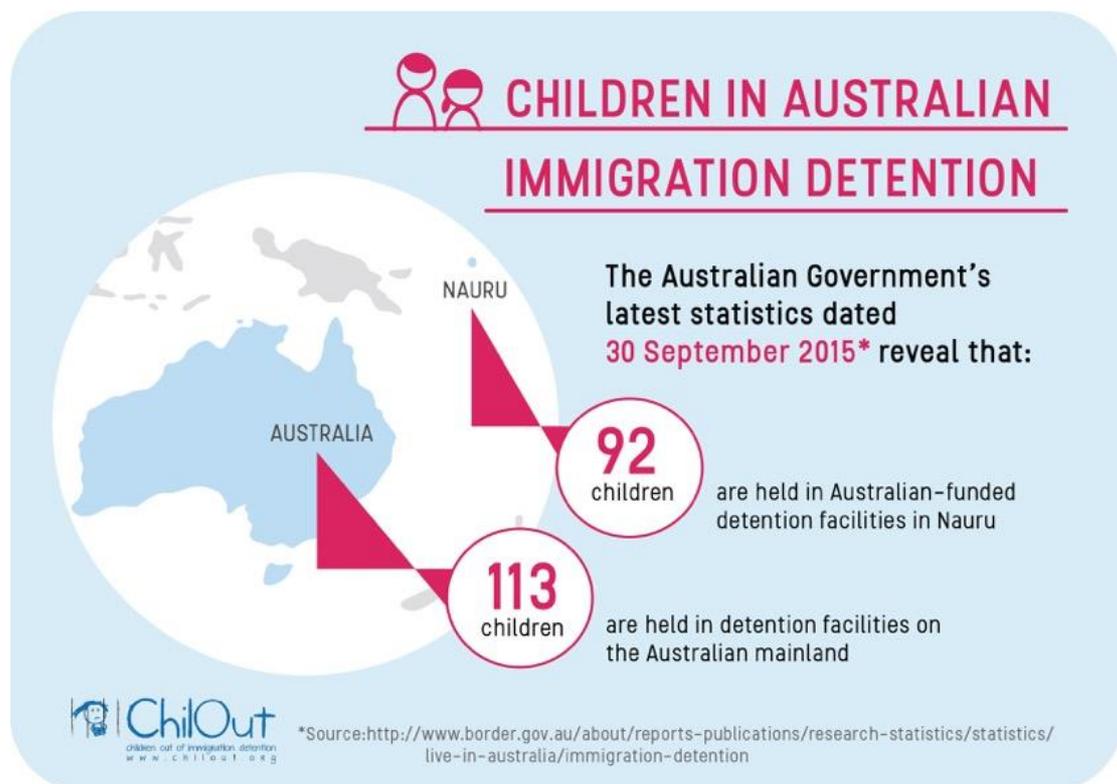
ChilOut Newsletter
November 2015

The Facts, Youth Ambassadors and Upcoming Events

Australia's voice opposing the detention of children is reaching a critical mass. Faith groups, health professionals, lawyers, unions, teachers, schools, business people, grannies, mums and dads are joining together to oppose immigration detention of children and put an end to it. With recent [Roy Morgan research](#) showing a profound increase in Australians supporting immigration by people seeking asylum (71% up from 52%) it is time for the Australian Government to act.

Children out by Christmas 2014 eh?

You may remember that in November last year the Immigration Minister said that 'Children could be released from the Christmas Island immigration detention centre as early as Christmas.' The deal was that certain children (not all) would be released by Christmas if ministers backed the Immigration Minister's sweeping legislation (see ChilOut's [summary](#)). This legislation would do nothing for [167 children detained on Nauru at that time, nor any others in the system](#). Today over 200 children are detained, only now they have even less rights. Only a few weeks out from Christmas 2015 here's the reality:



The statistics above will soon go up – as many pregnant women give birth – their babies will be born into Australia's immigration detention system. Many families detained in Australia who have come here for medical treatment are slated for removal to Nauru. The average time spent in detention ([according to the government's latest statistics](#)) has now reached 417 days, which is quite simply –

unacceptable.

Baby Asha

These kids are more than just numbers. Baby Asha is just one example of what happens to children in detention environments. Every day she is stuck on Nauru is harming 10-month-old Baby Asha. Her mouldy tent is infested with insects toxic to babies, and her father's mental health is deteriorating rapidly. [Her mother recently spoke to ABC](#) pleading with the Australian people to help her family. [Petition to Save Asha. #SaveAsha](#)

Update on Youth Ambassadors

ChilOut is proud to announce the release of our two new Youth Ambassador videos, created for us by Emma Davies, thanks Emma! (See Emma's [website](#).) They feature:

[1. Youth Ambassadors Program](#)

[2. Youth Ambassadors School Speaking Program](#)

If you're interested in having us speak at your school contact us at team@chilout.org.

Our Youth Ambassadors have had an incredibly busy few months addressing thousands of people through schools, universities and community groups, events, marches, summits and conferences.

In a heated meeting at the Transfield AGM last week ChilOut Youth Ambassador Mohammad read out [this statement](#) to Transfield and its investors. Applications open for the 2016 YA program in the next couple of months – so watch this newsletter and [social media](#) for more details!

Advocates for Children Speak Out

On 31 October Save the Children wound up its operations on Nauru, with the children's care now transitioning to Transfield/Broadspectrum. As its final act on Nauru Save the Children Australia has asked for far greater transparency and oversight of Australia's offshore detention centres on Papua New Guinea and Nauru. See their [Media Release](#).

During October staff from Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne came out in support of children in immigration detention, stating that they would not return children to environments that were clearly harming them. Since then thousands of health professionals across Australia have rallied in support of the children. In a [petition](#) to the government they stated: 'Every day in detention is a day doing more harm. We therefore ask the House to immediately release these children together with their families from detention.' [#DetentionHarmsChildren](#)

Thank You Australia

Thank you so much to everybody who supported ASRC's #KidsOut Day of Solidarity with children in immigration detention. On October 29 [thousands shared photos, videos, drawings, street art, and protested and rallied](#) in the streets and in politicians' offices to call for the release of the children.

Thank you also to the thousands of people who took part in the fourth annual Welcome Walk on 31 October. Walks occurred in 26 cities and towns across the nation with people celebrating our vibrant diversity, sharing friendship, and saying welcome. [#SayWelcome](#)

New Jumping Song and Video

On October 15 Jump Up & Down for Kids released a great song and [video](#) starring X Factor finalist Jacinta Gulisano. The video featured people from all over Australia including school kids, dentists, lifesavers, grannies, mums grandpas, and office workers, all jumping up and down for children in detention! Let's make it No#1! [#jumping4kids](#)

Events

Fast approaching is the 25th anniversary of Australia's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is one of the most widely ratified conventions in history, enshrining the rights of every child, including their right to play, to an education, to health, information, dignity and respect, among many others. On 10 December ChilOut, the International Detention Coalition and DASSAN will invite you to take part in actions on behalf of children in immigration detention, so watch this space and social media for more!

10 November: Labor Caucus (Sign the [Petition to Close Offshore Processing](#))

29 November: Stand Up for ChilOut (Melbourne comedy night fundraiser). [Buy tickets](#).

10 December: #JustKids event – ChilOut, the International Detention Coalition and DASSAN mark 25th Anniversary Australia's Ratification of Convention on Rights of the Child

17 December: Stand Up for ChilOut (Sydney comedy night fundraiser). Tickets available soon.

Early 2016: [Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children](#) Freedom Ride

More events on Refugee Council [website](#).

10 Things You Can Do to Help Kids in Detention Today

1. Create your own [#FreetheChildren event](#) to raise awareness of kids in detention.
2. Donate to [ChilOut](#).
3. [Write a letter](#) to someone in detention. Check out [this recent ABC program](#) on Befriend a Child in Detention.
4. Join a like-minded group like [#SaveAsha](#) and send letters and gifts to support nursing mums on Nauru. See also [End Child Detention Australia](#), [Mums 4 Refugees](#), [Roses for Nauru](#).
5. [Check](#) if your super fund is investing in the abuse of children.
6. Sign [the pledge](#) not to support any company that profits from abuse.
7. [Jump Up and Down 4 Kids](#). Just do it! Post pictures with #Jumping4kids.
8. Stand up for women. Sign the [petition](#) to bring pregnant women back to Australia. Though in the past pregnant asylum seeker women have been brought back to Australia to give birth, that policy has now changed with the first baby born to a person seeking asylum in Nauru. Now even those with risky pregnancies will go ahead on Nauru. Check out Mums 4 Refugees' [call for help for women on Nauru](#). #waronwomen Then write to your local MP: if you're not sure what to write check out our suggestions [here](#). (An insider tells us regular snail mail is sometimes more effective than emails.)
9. Share, share, share. Share Facebook posts, newsletters, Tweets, and our website. Tell everyone you know over 200 children are suffering under our current government policies.
10. Keep up to date with the latest events:
 - [No Business in Abuse Report](#) #nobusinessinabuse
 - [UN human rights review](#): Australia human rights record criticised
 - [Destination Kyrgyzstan](#)
 - [This is Abyan's story, and it is Australia's story](#)
 - ['Dad, why are we here?': No money, no life and a baby on the way at Nauru](#)
 - [Teacher: Detention leaves impression on children](#)
 - [Joint statement from Lactation Consultants of Australia and New Zealand and seven other groups: re breastfeeding mothers in detention centres](#)
 - [AMA: Kids in detention = govt-sanctioned child abuse](#)
 - [At risk pregnant women need to be brought back to Australia from Nauru](#)
 - [United Nations, Statements on children in immigration detention](#).

Check out our [Scoop It](#) page for all the latest news – it's updated every day. Or join us on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@ChilOutRevived](#).

Commit to doing one of these things every day until all children are free. Beyond that, let's enshrine the rights of children in legislation so that this never happens again.