



MEDIA RELEASE

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ChilOut Calls for Closure of Nauru Detention Centre in the Wake of Disturbing Findings of Senate Nauru Inquiry

The Senate Inquiry's report into allegations of abuse at the detention centre in Nauru, released yesterday, reveals shocking information about the extent of abuses against children in detention in Nauru. It also makes stark the lack of accountability and action taken in response to abuse allegations, which has exacerbated the trauma faced by children who have survived abuse and has led to a culture of impunity, exposing all children in detention in Nauru to a high risk of abuse.

ChilOut Campaign Coordinator Claire Hammerton said "67 cases of physical and sexual abuse against children were revealed by the Senate Nauru Inquiry, which included 30 cases of abuse by detention centre staff. That not a single person has been charged or convicted for these abuses is cause for enormous concern and widespread condemnation."

"ChilOut believes that there are many more cases of child abuse than what was revealed in the Senate Inquiry. We know of children who have not reported sexual abuse by detention centre staff due to reasons including cultural sensitivities, fear of adverse consequences for reporting and a belief that reporting is useless because no action will be taken." Ms Hammerton said. "All children deserve to be free and grow up in a safe and healthy environment. Children in immigration detention are no less deserving of this than children living in the Australian community."

ChilOut supports the Senate Inquiry's conclusion that "Nauru is neither a safe nor an appropriate environment for children and that they should no longer be held there." ChilOut calls for the immediate removal of all children in detention in Nauru. "All children must be removed from the Nauru detention centre and brought back to Australia as a matter of urgency. The Australian Government must also stop the slated transfer of children to Nauru who are currently held in detention centres in Australia. For as long as the Government continues to hold children in detention in Nauru it will be complicit in child abuse."

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