

DIARY NOTE: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18

ATTENTION: CHIEF OF STAFF / NEWSDESK / PRODUCERS

CHILDREN'S WARDS S-O-S

NATIONAL STANDARDS LAUNCH FOR HEALTH CARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

With a 30-percent drop in the number of designated children's wards since 1992 – which has been to the detriment of too many young Australians - leading organisations have banded together to establish new 'National Standards for the Care of Children and Adolescents in Health Services'.

There is clear evidence that the 'co-location' of children and adolescents with adults in hospital wards – and other health care settings - compromises the quality of care and, in some cases, the safety of those involved.

"Put simply, the treatment of children and adults often don't mix in a range of health care settings. It can be a traumatic experience for the young patients and it can also compromise the quality of care for all concerned," notes Dr Jenny Proimos, President of the RACP's Division of Paediatrics and Child Health.

"There is also the risk of physical, psychological or sexual harm to these children."

"We call on governments, health departments and hospital administrations to immediately implement the National Standards, to ensure that our young children and teenagers are given the standard of care they deserve."

Concern over the risks associated with the practice of 'co-location' has resulted in the development of the National Standards policy lead by:

- The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), Paediatrics and Child Health
- The Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare
- Children's Hospitals Australasia

Together with the support of:

- The Australian Paediatric Society
- The Paediatric Emergency Medicine Society of Australia & New Zealand
- The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
- The Australian Medical Association
- The Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses
- Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians



association for the wellbeing
of children in healthcare



LAUNCH OF NATIONAL STANDARDS – TUES NOV 18

WHERE: *HEALTHCARE FOR KIDS* National Conference, Manly Pacific Hotel, Sydney

WHEN: 4.30PM, TUESDAY NOV 18

CONTACT: Sharyn Low, Conference Secretariat, on 0417 202 448.