



# RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Healthy Profession.  
Healthy Australia.

27 February 2017

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is Australia's peak general practice representative organization, with more than 35,000 members across metropolitan, regional and rural areas of the country.

On behalf of our membership, I am writing to you to express deep concern regarding the death of 27-year-old Sudanese refugee Mr Faysal Ahmed in Royal Brisbane and Women's hospital on 24 December 2016.

The RACGP recommends urgent steps be undertaken to ensure that this tragic event is fully investigated in the weeks ahead, prior to the completion of the Queensland coroner's investigation. As health professionals we understand that coronial inquests can take many years to be completed, and we have significant concerns that the death of this young man may be symptomatic of wider systemic inadequacies with health service delivery within immigration detention centres.

The RACGP is aware of numerous media reports<sup>1-5</sup> that state that Mr Ahmed had been seeking help for a variety of symptoms including chest pain, headaches, sleeplessness and weight loss prior to his death and that he personally had filed a complaint regarding the care that he had been provided prior to his death.

If the information in the public domain is accurate, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the care afforded to this man fell far short of to the standard afforded to all people living in the Australian community and therefore Mr Ahmed's death is likely to have been preventable.

The RACGP urges your committee to consider a recommendation for an urgent, robust, independent investigation by health professionals be undertaken to ensure that no further preventable deaths occur amongst people held in detention facilities run by the Australian Government.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Bastian Seidel  
President



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## References

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5. <http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/4375306/why-did-faysal-die-the-questions-peter-dutton-has-to-answer/?cs=8>  
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