



The End Child Detention Coalition (ECDC) was founded by 4 organisations: Catholic Mission, Jesuit Social Services, Jesuit Refugee Service and the International Detention Coalition. Today the ECDC is made up of 26 member organisations from across Australia, who collectively possess a wealth of experience in policy and advocacy, advocating together for the release of children from immigration detention - it's no place for a child.

When ECDC first began the numbers of children in detention was at its peak. Thankfully since then, the Government has mostly ensured children are not detained in locked immigration detention however this is at the discretion of the minister and current legislation places children in locked detention as a first decision.

ECDC is hosting its 2nd webinar in the 'State of Play' series on **Tuesday 29th September**. This webinar will feature Dr Sarah Mares, child and family psychiatrist, and Conjoint Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychiatry at the University of NSW in Sydney Australia. Sarah has authored multiple peer reviewed publications, including on the mental health of children and families who seek asylum, and recently completed a PhD on this topic.

New evidence from this concludes that: **Children in detention have markedly worse social-emotional wellbeing at all ages than their community-based counterparts**. Sarah has kindly agreed for ECDC to use her research in our advocacy work and also present her findings with us in this next webinar.

It is particularly timely as the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement for this year is on Mental Health and talks about the effects of mental ill health caused by immigration detention. "Mental health is not simply the absence of illnesses, but having the capacity and opportunity to thrive – that is, to participate in the fullness of life to which Jesus invites us (Jn 10:10)" (ACBC, 2020).

Please join us to hear from Sarah and our moderator Hayat Akbari, current Chair of the Youth working group at the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network on **Tuesday 29th September at 6pm**.

Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P6dk4NKfTvG00QnAfzt64w



Dr Sarah Mares

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