



# Centrecare Media Release:

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## ORPHANED BOY CANNOT BE LEFT IN DETENTION

17 February 2011

Centrecare is concerned for the wellbeing of the asylum seekers that were flown to Sydney to attend the funeral services this week. In particular that of the young boy orphaned by the December shipwreck.

His return to immigration detention on Christmas Island is a stark contradiction to statements by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship that there is a better way of dealing with detention for many children and families (ABC radio Oct 18, 2010). Despite the Governments view that community detention is the most humane way to treat minors and vulnerable families they have still elected to return him to an environment that is both distressing and potentially damaging to someone who has experienced such traumatic events. The potential long term psychological impact of recent events is significant and every effort needs to be made to secure his mental wellbeing. Detention facilities are not places for children.

Centrecare urges the Minister to reconsider his decision and place him in the care of community detention services that will allow access to his remaining family and community, and hopefully reduce further trauma.

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