

Children in Detention Resolution BUV Assembly Minutes 5 December 2003

Children in Detention

Rev Rainer Schack, Senior Pastor of the Footscray Baptist Church and Rev Ron Ham, member of the ministry team at Footscray Baptist Church and Associate Pastor for the Ashburton Baptist Church, raised the issue of Children in Detention. Rev Ron Ham spoke of the many motions previously passed in March 2002, which was to call on the Federal Government to release the Children in Detention. Ron reported that to date, the Federal Government has not acted. Ron advised that the website, www.chillout.org which demonstrates the impact on Children being kept in detention and has called for all Baptists to pass the following motion:

'This Assembly of the Baptist Union of Victoria expresses its deep concern that the Federal Government still has not acted upon the Report of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of its National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention.

That Report, tabled in Parliament on May 10, 2004, in one of its major findings, recommended release of children in detention by June 10, 2004. The Commission, in another major finding, says that Australia's immigration detention laws, as administered by the Commonwealth, have created "a detention system that is fundamentally inconsistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child" (CRC)

This Assembly, because of our commitment to Jesus Christ who placed such a high value on the child, and our concern for human rights, calls on the Federal Government to release all children, with their parents, from Detention Centres according to the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission"

It was resolved:

'That this Assembly, because of our commitment to Jesus Christ who placed such a high value on the child, and our concern for human rights, calls on the Federal Government to release all children, with their parents, from Detention Centres according to the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission'.