

MEDIA RELEASE

4 December 2019

Medevac legislation repeal

The National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society said the Federal Parliament's decision today to repeal the Migration Amendment (Repairing Medical Transfers) Bill 2019 is very disappointing.

CEO Toby oConnor said there is overwhelming evidence that the legislation, which was put in place earlier this year, was working.

'A number of people received treatment in Australia following the introduction of the legislation, which greatly expedited the transfer process, provided clear timeframes for decisions, while affording opportunity for transfer refusal at each step of the process.

'The sky did not fall in. The boats did not resume. Hospitals were not inundated.

'People who transferred for treatment under Medevac remained in detention while in Australia,' he said.

The National Council calls on the Federal Government to retain some of the important elements of the previous legislation including the role of the Independent Health Assessment Panel.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 conferences located in individual parishes across the country.

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