

MEDIA RELEASE – 23.07.2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AASW welcomes decision to give protection visa to child refugee

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) has welcomed the decision to grant a permanent protection visa to a young Ethiopian boy on Monday even though he had arrived by boat.

The AASW has a long standing commitment to the rights of refugees in our community and is especially concerned about the rights and welfare of children.

President of the AASW Professor Karen Healy says: “I hope this is the beginning of a change of heart in the Government. As the many presentations at the recent international conference of social workers in Melbourne highlighted, responding to refugees is a global issue. No country can solve the problem alone by using harsher and harsher penalties. It will not be a sign of weakness for the government to change its current course, but a sign of strength and humanity.”

The AASW represents over 8000 professional social workers, many of whom work directly with refugees and asylum seekers.

Media Contact:

Laura Edwards Media and Communications Officer

P: (02) 6232 3911 or 0400 613 516
