



Statement from Edmund Rice Education Australia

16th October 2014

“The initiative of students in choosing to actively participate and engage on important social issues is strongly supported by Edmund Rice Education Australia.

“The ‘Detention for Detention’ event has been developed at a grassroots level by students through *ERA for Change*.

“The *ERA for Change* program provides students with the important opportunity to investigate and understand a wide range of social issues including homelessness, disability, human trafficking, poverty, refugee and asylum seekers.

“This enables students to learn and inform themselves before responding in a way that reflects their own thinking.

“The *Detention for Detention* initiative is just one outcome of this important program which develops an interest in and participation in social justice issues by young Australians.

“Contrary to some reporting, this event was previously held in May 2013 and has now been taken up by more EREA schools this year as part of *ERA for Change*.

“As they did last year, tomorrow students have chosen to symbolically express the loss of voice and freedom of movement that they see is imposed on children held in detention.

“EREA supports this initiative as an important opportunity for students to participate and make commentary on policy in the light of the Gospel and from their own perspective as informed members of our society and future leaders”, said Dr. Wayne Tinsey, Executive Director, EREA.

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