

## **2016 04 29 1751 Doctors for Refugees Media Release**

### **Unacceptable Delay in Transfer results in another Death**

The death of Nauruan refugee Omid once again exposes the lie that people offshore have the same medical care as those in the Australian community.

We know that the Nauru hospital staff struggled with maintaining an adequate airway and had difficulties accessing an intravenous line. These are quite difficult to do in a severe burns victim and need a specialised team immediately. Some parts of remote Australia may also not have this expertise but he would have been airlifted out to a tertiary hospital in a matter of hours.

When he got to Brisbane we was grossly oedematous (swollen) from the loss of vital proteins and had fluid leaking into his lungs, further impairing his breathing. Much of this was clearly compounded by the early lack of adequate oxygenation.

It is not an unusual complication; it's entirely predictable in a person with this level of burns

This tragic outcome once again demonstrates the complete impracticality of accommodating these highly vulnerable people so far from Australia.

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