

Monday 21 October

## Queensland premiere of new documentary *Against Our Oath*, Noosa



On Monday, the Sunshine Coast Refugee Action Network hosted the Queensland premiere of the documentary “Against Our Oath” by award winning film maker Heather Kirkpatrick at Noosa Cinema. Filmed over four years, the documentary follows the ethical conflicts that erupt for doctors after the Australian government overrides their clinical decisions made for refugee patients.

Ms Kirkpatrick said she was first drawn to the subject of medical ethics after reading a story in mid 2015, about the nationwide doctors’ protests against the Border Force Act. “This act threatened doctors with two years jail for them if they spoke out about detention conditions they had seen,” she said. “I could immediately see the ethical conflict doctors would find themselves in as a result of this act being passed”.

“I think documentaries are a wonderful way to raise debate on issues and I’ve never been short of people asking questions at the end of a film.”

After the film a short Q&A session was hosted by Ms Kirkpatrick and Noosa local, Gabby Sutherland. Ms Sutherland, a former teacher on Nauru with Save the Children, shot some of the secret footage inside the detention centre included in the film. The audience was clearly affected by both the film and the presence of someone with first-hand experience of working with refugees in offshore detention.

The film was attended by some “Noosa Notables”, including Mayor Tony Wellington and his partner, Judy Ditter. The screening was preceded by drinks and canapes in the foyer, provided by volunteers from Noosa Welcomes Refugees.

The event was also an opportunity to raise funds for refugee causes. Over \$1,000 was donated towards sponsoring a refugee from Manus or Nauru to resettle in Canada.

The Sunshine Coast Refugee Action Network also hosted a screening of the film in Nambour on Wednesday 23 October with a Q&A with Ms Kirkpatrick. The film will then open in Brisbane at New Farm Cinemas on Thursday.

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– Gillian Duffy