ATTENTION: Joint Standing Committee on Migration Review Treatment of Disability,

Dear Sir/Madam


The North Queensland Multicultural Health Network which is comprised of representation from local Multicultural organizations, Commonwealth, State and Local Government personnel and Community Non Government Services have identified as one of their focus areas Multiculturalism and Disability. Through its work with newly arrived groups and migrant groups, NQMHN is aware of the trauma and dislocation caused to families who are denied visa entry to Australia due to concerns about the costs of health support to one member of the family who may have a disability.

We call on the Joint Standing Committee on Migration to recommend:

1. Full application of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 to the Migration Act 1958 health assessment to remove the potential for any direct or indirect discrimination against refugees and migrants with disability;

2. Improved consistency, transparency and administrative fairness for migrants and refugees with disability applying for an Australian visa;


Yours faithfully
Meg Davis
For Disabilities Working Group
North Queensland Multicultural Health Network

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