



11 April 2018

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

RE: Letter of Support – Multicultural Youth Affairs Network New South Wales (MYAN NSW) Submission to Social Services Legislation Amendment (Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants) Bill 2018

As the NSW peak organisation representing the 1.25 million young people and the services that support them, Youth Action supports the right of all children and young people to live safe and supported lives. We work closely with Multicultural Youth Affairs Network New South Wales (MYAN NSW) and wholeheartedly support their role as a state-wide multicultural youth specialist organisation.

Youth Action supports MYAN's response to the *Services Legislation Amendment (Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants) Bill 2018*. We agree with MYAN that the bill should not be passed by parliament. Migrant young people make a vast contribution to our successful, multicultural society. The changes proposed would have a significant impact on the most vulnerable migrants to Australia. The impacts will be felt by the very people our humanitarian, refugee and migration programs are trying to help and run counter to the intention and spirit of the programs. Rather than delaying these newly arrived migrants support, the Australian Government should be undertaking all actions possible to support their transition. The young people that we support today as part of these programs will be shaped by their first experiences within Australia and the beginning of their journey and the more support we can offer in this critical time, the better their outcomes will be. We support MYAN's assertion that as a country we should not be introducing laws that make the settlement and migration journey more difficult, as this will only create additional challenges and barriers to these populations.

Youth Action and MYAN believe the best outcomes for children and young people are achieved by a combination of funding, resourcing, policy and best practice solutions. Any changes to legislation should be very carefully considered in line with the feedback in each organisation's submission.

Sincerely,



Katie Acheson
CEO
Youth Action