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BY: Migration
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Hon Michael Danby MP
Chair - Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Monday June 7, 2010

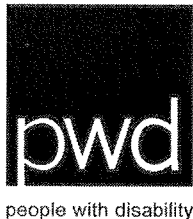
To the Hon Michael Danby,



As organisations representing large sections of the Australian public and electorate we are writing to you as the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration.

We understand that the Review into the Immigration Treatment of Disability is soon to be tabled to Parliament.

Our organisations have actively participated in the Review with a view to highlight the unfortunate treatment of the health requirement as part of the migration regulations.



We consider the treatment of the health requirement to be discriminatory and not reflecting human rights and social inclusion principles.

We also believe that the treatment is contrary to the rights established through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The undersigned organisations are hopeful that the Committee has taken into account the numerous submissions received as part of the Review and we are looking forward to your recommendations for positive reforms to Australian migration law and regulations.

In particular we are hopeful to find the following recommendations:

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.
3. Withdrawal of the Australian interpretive declaration made upon ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities pertaining to the health requirements for non nationals.

We are looking forward to the Committee's report which is awaited with great hope.

Yours Sincerely,



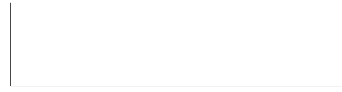
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EO, National Ethnic Disability Alliance



Lesley Hall
CEO, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations



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Executive Director, Leadership Team
People with Disability Australia



Frank Hall-Bentick
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This letter is endorsed by:
Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations
Children with Disability Australia