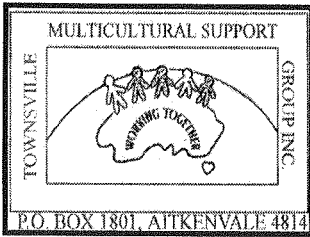


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Submission No. 77



BY: MG  
**TOWNSVILLE MULTICULTURAL SUPPORT GROUP INC.**

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT PROGRAM, MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S GROUP, ADVOCACY, VOLUNTEER COORDINATION/SUPPORT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE, SETTLEMENT SUPPORT, CULTURAL OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS PROJECT, BICULTURAL SUPPORT TO CHILD CARE CENTRES,

October 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

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

Dear Sir/Madam

The North Queensland Multicultural Health Network (NQMHN) Disabilities Working Group endorses the Position paper submitted by the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Review Treatment of Disability.

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;
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.

Yours faithfully

Meg Davis

For Disabilities Working Group

North Queensland Multicultural Health Network

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