

I wish to make a submission for the Senate Inquiry.

I am a CSR (Community Support for Refugees) volunteer that is run through the Migrant Resource Centre in Hobart, Tasmania. I visit/tutor a young (13yo) Sudanese girl who lives with her older sister, now 19 years old. They arrived in Tasmania as UHMs and have been here for almost 3 years now. They may very well have been taken under a relative's wing when they first arrived but have been living independently for some time now.

Their family is fragmented with a brother living in Canada; their mother still in a refugee camp in Africa; their father died some years ago in Africa. Her older sister does not cope well with looking after her younger sister and regularly express that they desperately need their mother here. They have been trying to re-unite with her for the past 2 years.

What has prompted me to make this submission is my concern for the 13 year old girl that I visit. She is at an extremely vulnerable age and really has no guidance to help her in her day-to-day life. Some of the things I have noticed about her are:

- *Will often not eat - sometimes as a rebellion against her sister (could be the beginning of an eating disorder)
- *Frequent headaches and tiredness
- *Internalises her anger
- *Will not talk to counsellor or anyone else about her problems or how she is feeling
- *Fighting with other girls at her previous school
- *Feels isolated at her new school and has made no new friends
- *Socially isolated - no car and sister does not drive or give her money
- *Is frequently left at home alone while her sister attends university or works part time at night
- *Does not do well at school

As I see it there are 2 things that this girl needs:

1. Her mother to be brought to Australia
2. Additional support (including financial)

To have these issues when she was already traumatised by the resettlement then there are bound to be problems later on.

Kind regards,
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