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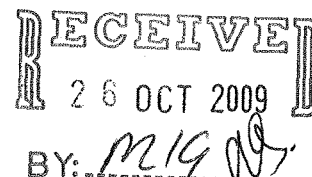
ABN: 79 081 345 164

October 23rd 2009

Mr Michael Danby MP
Chairperson
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Parliament House, Canberra

Submission No

15



Dear Michael,

**Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Review of Health Assessments in the light of Australia's Ratification of the Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Physical Disability Australia (PDA) would firstly like to thank the Australian Government for conducting this review in the light of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

PDA has always been concerned about people with disabilities being barred from migrating to Australia. This has always been discriminatory and until now, we have not been able to even lodge a claim of discrimination as this avenue too, has been exempted from the Migration Regulations and other legislations.

1. **We would like to endorse and support the submission you have received from the National Ethnic Disability Alliance.**
2. The Terms of Reference refer to the 'costs and benefits' of allowing people with disabilities into the country. PDA will be most interested to read the Report of the Committee as for many years we have been researching the costs of disability.
3. PDA believes that all people who apply to migrate to Australia, or are refugees and wish to stay in Australia should be welcomed to do so, irrespective of their race, religion, gender or disability. The criteria set by the Government for refugees and migrants should apply equally to all applicants and their family members.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Niki Sheldon
Project Officer
PDA