

## Young, Claire (REPS)

---

**From:** Ruben Ramdhony [ruben.ramdhony@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 October 2009 10:34 AM  
**To:** Committee, Migration (REPS)  
**Subject:** Submission re: Inquiry into immigration treatment of disability (Please treat as confidential)

Submission No 64

RECEIVED  
28 OCT 2009

BY: MIG *[Signature]*

Dear Committee,

In response to the queries below, here are my humble comments, if they can be considered somehow, it would mean so much for so many disabled people.

- Is the current process for assessing a visa applicant against the health requirement fair and transparent?

I don't think it's fair, I have read that a person with a disability is assessed as a Burden to the Australian Health System to an amount of AUD 700,000 in their lifetime, however I don't see how this has been calculated and if a rare case of disability could eventually amount to this figure, it is definitely not the case for the whole categories of disability and this needs to change, People need to be assessed on a case by case basis, including the fact that these people can also contribute to the economy and work and earn a living.

- What types of contributions and costs should be considered?

Whether a person can cater for their immediate needs or in case of a child, whether the parents can cater for those needs. Then again we should not discriminate against a person because they were poor. There needs to be a consensus of what these costs are and what is the threshold to be considered excessive.

- How do we measure these?

Hospitals have had similar cases, are those data being considered? If the person has already had major surgeries done before migrating, have these been considered? a condition may be considered bad, but Science has achieved a lot and nowadays a lot of disabilities have solutions to enable a person to live a normal life.

- Are there additional factors that should be considered?

Yes, factors like how long these people have been living in Australia for example, a lot of people have been onshore already a long time on temporary visas, before being denied Permanent Residency. These people have made Australia their home already, it won't be easy to return back, or in case of a child, they may not have ever seen the land of their parents, is that not unfair to ask them to go back in those circumstances?

- Do you have personal experience of this?

Yes, my child suffers from Spina Bifida and uses a wheelchair to move around, she goes to regular school and is a fantastic child who does great at school, she has English as her mother tongue, as she came in Australia when she was just 3 yrs. Now she is 8 yrs old. We have been in Australia on Student Visas ever since, we are afraid to apply for Permanent Visas as we know about the system, we fear to be sent back, our child has undergone major surgeries at the Royal Children Hospital and she is doing so well now. We

are grateful to the Doctors, the Australian Health System that made our child better. We only regret the Australian Migration system isn't right yet.

- What principles should apply to the assessment of visa applications against the health requirement? Should there be exceptions?

Yes, exceptions Must be possible, there are always exceptions to rules, isn't it? Well some people are prepared to sign undertakings that they are prepared never to ask for government money, Medicare etc. If we agree to cater for the needs of our child, never to assess social aid, and we work hard and pay our taxes, we could call this land our home. Private health insurance, medibank private, there are so many stuff out there, at least we should be able to choose what's right for us.

Also, maybe the major cities are already full of migrants, but what about regional and low population growth areas, can't we at least stay there, Australia needs skilled migrants to develop the regional areas, where there is potentially less impact on the society and health services.

I unfortunately didn't put a lot of thoughts in this submission being the last day, these are however my honest opinion as an Individual directly impacted by this issue,

Kind regards

Ruben Ramdhony