



**To** Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

**Subject** Options to manage humanitarian applicants from countries in Africa affected by Ebola Virus Disease.

**Timing** To be considered by 17 October 2014 as discussed with the Minister's Office.

**Recommendations**

That you:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. note that we will put in place arrangements to pause the processing of humanitarian visa applications from persons living in countries in Africa affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD);   | noted / please discuss                |
| 2. note there are 24 persons (11 persons in Ghana, 8 in Guinea and 5 in the Democratic Republic of Congo - DRC) who have been granted humanitarian visas yet to arrive in Australia;   | noted / please discuss                |
| 3. agree that the 11 persons from Ghana be allowed to arrive in Australia under normal health and border screening arrangements (in line with advice from the World Health Organisation and the Department of Health that Ghana is not affected by the EVD); | agreed/not agreed/please discuss      |
| 4. note the following options available to manage the group of 8 persons living in Guinea and 5 in the DRC:  |                                       |
| i) delay travel for this group by implementing mandatory quarantining for 21 days overseas   | i) agreed/not agreed/please discuss   |
| s. 47C(1)  | ii) agreed/not agreed/please discuss  |
|  | iii) agreed/not agreed/please discuss |
| 5. note, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Department's preferred option is 4(i);   | noted/please discuss                  |

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 6. note the Department is preparing a separate submission on options to manage longer-term arrangements for the humanitarian caseload and for the wider group of (non-humanitarian) travellers to Australia from EVD-affected countries; | noted/please discuss                    |
| 7. note other countries' policies on travel from these areas;  | noted/please discuss                    |
| 8. sign the attached response to the Hon Peter Dutton MP Minister for Health, seeking his agreement to the measures outlined ( <u>Attachment C</u> ); and  | letter signed/not signed/please discuss |
| 9. note that once you have made a decision, we will prepare letters for your signature to State Premier and Chief Ministers updating them on previous advice provided.   | noted/please discuss                    |

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

Signature.....

Date:...../...../2014

### Minister's Comments

Rejected Yes/No	Timely Yes/No	Relevance <input type="checkbox"/> Highly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Significantly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant	Length <input type="checkbox"/> Too long <input type="checkbox"/> Right length <input type="checkbox"/> Too brief	Quality Poor 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Excellent <b>Comments:</b>

### Key Issues

1. The Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, wrote to you on 15 October 2014 asking that you consider *suspending entrants under the Humanitarian Programme from countries in West Africa affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) until the situation there stabilises* (Attachment A). Please note the updated Department of Health advice as at 17 October 2014 includes three additional countries affected by EVD: Nigeria; Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



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2. We briefed you on 15 October 2014 (SM2014/02868 at [Attachment B](#)) on arrangements in place for humanitarian visa holders from EVD-affected countries. You also signed letters to State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers advising them of the arrangements in place for this group.
3. There are some 680 persons from countries in Africa affected by EVD, whose applications for humanitarian visas are at various stages of processing.
  - a. We have taken immediate steps to temporarily pause processing for these persons.
  - b. We will brief you further on the longer term treatment of this cohort in the near future, including the requirement for you to sign a section 499 direction, as part of a submission looking at arrangements for the wider group of travellers from EVD-affected countries (paragraph 20 has further details).

4. s. 47E(d)

The department will work closely with DSS and the Department of Health to communicate messaging around the processing pause.

5. There are only 24 persons of interest from countries in Africa who have been granted humanitarian visas and who are yet to travel to Australia. These persons' travel arrangements have been delayed pending your advice on options to manage arrivals of this group. Of this number:
  - 11 are currently living in Ghana, which is not a country affected by the EVD, as per advice from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Department of Health.
  - 8 persons are residing in Guinea which is affected by EVD.
  - 5 persons are residing in the DRC which is also affected by EVD.

6. The department seeks your agreement to allow the 11 persons residing in Ghana to arrive as per normal arrangements, with standard pre-departure and post-arrival health checks and the usual border processes in place at Australian airports.

7. For the remaining 13 persons, there are three possible options to manage their arrival:

### Option 1 – Delay travel by implementing mandatory quarantining outside Australia

8. This is the department's preferred option as this can be implemented quickly and effectively and will also mitigate any residual concerns among State and Territory health officials.
9. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is involved in organising travel for this group and is contracted to arrange two pre-departure health checks. DIBP Chief Medical Officer, Dr Paul Douglas, has discussed with IOM the requirement to ensure that these people are mandatorily quarantined and medically monitored for 21 days prior to departure. The incubation period for the EVD is 21 days. IOM has provided verbal advice that they have the experience and capacity to institute these arrangements. We will work with IOM to ensure these processes are implemented through our existing contractual arrangements.
10. We will provide your office with advice in relation to the operational details of these quarantining procedures once we have finalised these arrangements with IOM.

### *Financial implications and messaging*

11. Delaying arrivals for these 13 persons will result in some costs to the department arising from:
  - Special arrangements organised by IOM for the 21-day period as well as accommodation, food and other living expenses.
  - Reimbursement of any costs incurred by the proposer in Australia in relation to cancellation of accommodation arrangements for the families.

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12. The department will communicate with the proposers and relevant communities to manage the messaging of these arrangements.

s. 47C(1), s. 47E(d)

13. s. 47C(1), s. 47E(d)

s. 47C(1), s. 47E(d)

14. s. 47C(1), s. 47E(d)

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

Arrangements for the wider cohort of travellers to Australia (non-humanitarian visa holders)

20. There are a number of groups within the wider cohort of travellers to Australia who have either originated from or passed through the Ebola-affected areas. This includes groups whose arrival into Australia may not be able to be easily monitored (eg tourist, family and student visa holders) and groups who we will not have any visibility of (eg returning citizens and permanent residents; returning aid workers). BP and Rio Tinto have operations in West Africa. The department will prepare a separate submission on processes to manage these arrivals in consultation with relevant agencies including the Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Travel restrictions from West Africa in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada

21. There are no travel bans in place in any of these countries for travellers exiting West Africa. The respective governments are advising all residents to avoid nonessential travel to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone and have implemented health assessment and screening processes at airports for travellers from these countries. Persons who have been exposed to Ebola or are sick with symptoms of Ebola will not be allowed to travel on commercial flights to the United States and potentially to other countries. The World Health Organisation has also recommended against travel or trade bans.

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Response to the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health

22. If you agree to Recommendations 3 and 4(i), we have prepared a response for your signature to the Minister for Health outlining the measures we are taking to manage humanitarian visa holders from countries affected by EVD. The letter also foreshadows further consultation and guidance from the Department of Health in relation to implementing processes for the wider cohort of non-humanitarian travellers to Australia from these areas.

**Background**

The Australian Government has put in place a range of clear and rigorous procedures for persons arriving on humanitarian visas to mitigate the risk of the spread of EVD. These procedures cover the pre-departure period, at the border arrangements and on-arrival settlement services. Procedures have recently been tightened with the most recent humanitarian arrivals met at the airport by officials undertaking "sick traveller" screening.

DSS has instigated arrangements for smooth management of new arrivals in first 21 days of settlement, including facilitating early appointments with a medical practitioner, health status monitoring and limiting contact with other people.

Details of 24 persons granted humanitarian visas

15 persons are scheduled to arrive on 23 and 24 October 2014. No travel has been organised as yet for the remaining 9 persons.

**23 October 2014 – Total 4 persons**

- 3 persons to **Sydney**
  - departing on 22 October 2014, 17.50 hours from Accra, **Ghana** transiting Dubai.
  - visas were granted on 9 June 2014, entry to Australia has to be on or before 9 June 2015.
- 1 person to **Brisbane**
  - departing on 21 October 2014 at 1920 from Conakry, **Guinea** transiting Paris and Kuala Lumpur.
  - visa granted on 4 August 2014, entry to Australia has to be on or before 4 August 2015

**24 October 2014 – Total 11 persons**

- 10 persons to **Adelaide**
  - departing on 22 October 2014 at 1750 hours from Accra, **Ghana** transiting Dubai.
  - visas granted on 17 June 2014, entry into Australia has to be on or 17 June 2015.
- 1 person to **Adelaide**
  - departing on 22 October 2014 at 1750 hours from Accra, **Ghana** transiting Dubai.
  - visa granted on 28 May 2014, entry to Australia has to be on or before 28 May 2015.

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**Consultation – internal/external**

Internal Consultations – Border, Refugees and Onshore Services Division; DIBP Chief Medical Officer; DIBP General Counsel; Compliance and Case Resolution Division; Migration and Citizenship Policy Division; Strategic Border Command; Executive Division

External Consultations – Department of Health; Department of Social Services; Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Client service implications**

Minimal. As discussed in paragraph 11 dot point 2, the department will engage with the proposers in Australia.

**Financial implications**

As discussed in paragraph 11, the department will incur minimal costs that can be absorbed within existing budgetary allocations.

**Attachments**

**Attachment A** Letter from the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health

**Attachment B** SM2014/02868 – Previous submission on arrangements in place for humanitarian visa holders

**Attachment C** Draft response from you to the Hon Peter Dutton MP

Authorising Officer



Dr Wendy Southern PSM  
Deputy Secretary  
Policy and Programme Management Group

17/10/14

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer Daniel Boyer, Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

CC Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection  
Secretary  
Deputy Secretaries  
First Assistant Secretary, Border, Refugees and Onshore Services Division  
Chief Medical Officer, DIBP  
Assistant Secretary, Visa Framework and Family Policy Branch  
General Counsel, Legal Division  
First Assistant Secretary, Visa and Offshore Services Division

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

**Further measures to be implemented in relation to humanitarian entrants arriving from countries in Africa affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2014 in which you ask that I consider suspending Humanitarian Programme entrants from countries in Africa affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) until the situation there stabilises.

Having considered your advice, I have asked my department to pause processing of all humanitarian visa applications from persons located in EVD-affected countries. I understand these countries are currently Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo. I also understand that Nigeria and Senegal may shortly be declared by the World Health Organisation as EVD-free.

My department advises 24 persons of interest in Africa have been granted humanitarian visas but are yet to travel to Australia. Eleven of these persons are residing in Ghana which I understand is not a country that has been affected by EVD. I propose that these persons be allowed to arrive as per normal arrangements, with standard pre-departure and post-arrival health checks and the usual border processes in place at Australian airports.

I have asked my department however, to delay the travel of the remaining 13 persons who are living in Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo. I have also asked my department to put in place arrangements to ensure these persons be medically quarantined outside Australia for 21 days prior to travel and to ensure that they undertake regular health checks focusing on Ebola symptoms during this period.

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I appreciate your urgent advice that these measures that I propose to implement will be sufficient to mitigate your concerns.

As the lead agency coordinating the Australian Government's response to this disease, my department will continue to be guided by your advice in relation to any additional measures my department needs to put in place to manage arrivals of other non-humanitarian groups from countries in Africa affected by EVD. This includes measures around returning Australian citizens and returning permanent residents.

I look forward to your advice.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

/ /2014

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**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
MINISTER FOR SPORT**

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection  
Suite M1.19  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your advice regarding the recent and pending arrival of refugees under Australia's Humanitarian Programme, and also for copying me in to the letter sent to State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers dated 15 October 2014.

I think given the circumstances of extremely short notice of these arrivals by your Department, we have all responded very well in our joint efforts to limit the risk of Ebola.

The significant threat of Ebola continues in West Africa and whilst the level of preparedness in our country is very high, we are continually assessing our response and limiting risk wherever possible.

The arrival of refugees into Australia from affected countries under the Humanitarian Programme does raise a number of issues at this point in time. A lack of understanding of our health system, poor language and health literacy skills all add to the threat of a presentation of Ebola within this cohort.

While the pre-arrival health checks referred to in your letter are important, if these humanitarian entrants have no symptoms and there is no direct evidence of exposure or likelihood of infection with Ebola virus when they arrive in Australia, there is currently no capacity for the Commonwealth under the *Quarantine Act 1908* to take action. Similarly, there appear to be limits on the powers under State laws to compel compliance with even a request for voluntary quarantine. This definitely limits our capacity to effectively manage the potential risk of exposure of the public to the Ebola virus.

In light of this, I believe it is prudent to consider suspending entrants under this programme until the situation in West Africa stabilises. This is obviously a decision for you as Minister to take weighing up all of the relevant factors.

From a health perspective I believe such a decision strengthens our capacity to keep Ebola from our shores.

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I look forward to your advice and please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dutton'.

15/10/14

PETER DUTTON

cc The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister

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Australian Government  
Department of Immigration and Border Protection

**Submission**

For information / For decision  
ExecCorro Reg.Number

**To** Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

**Subject** Processes in place to check health of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by Ebola Virus Disease

**Timing** 15 October 2014 – as there are groups of humanitarian entrants arriving on 15 and 16 October 2014.

**Recommendations**

That you:

1. note the additional arrangements the department has put in place to manage health checks for humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease; and
2. sign the attached letters to State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers (Attachments A and B).

noted / please discuss

letters signed / not signed / please discuss

Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

Signature.....

Date: 15/10/2014

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Minister's/Assistant Minister's Comments				
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">all humanitarian entrants from Ebola affected areas should be required to submit to 21 day house quarantine and be available to state health authorities for checks on arrival</p>				
<b>Rejected</b> Yes/No	<b>Timely</b> Yes/No	<b>Relevance</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Highly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Significantly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant	<b>Length</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Too long <input type="checkbox"/> Right length <input type="checkbox"/> Too brief	<b>Quality</b> Poor 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Excellent <b>Comments:</b>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">as required by that state agency.</p>

### Key Issues

1. Groups of humanitarian entrants comprising 49 persons from Ebola-affected areas (Ghana and Guinea) in West Africa are scheduled to arrive on 15, 16, 23 and 24 October 2014.
  - 13 persons from this group are arriving in Queensland on 15 October 2014.
2. The government of Queensland has expressed some concerns in relation to health checks for these entrants given they have been living in Guinea.
3. The department has ensured that there are a number of additional checks in place for offshore humanitarian entrants from Ebola-affected areas at various stages of their travel to Australia (See Background section for detailed information on these processes). This includes departure health checks administered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM):
  - usually conducted 7-10 days prior to travel; and
  - a second last minute pre-embarkation health check with particular focus on Ebola symptoms.
4. If there is a clinical suspicion of Ebola, the person, together with their family members and close contacts, will be quarantined and their travel to Australia postponed.
5. IOM records all details of the outcomes of these health check outcomes on a Health Manifest which is shared with the Global Health Unit of the department.
6. In line with protocols established by the Department of Health, we understand all Australian airport border staff have been briefed on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and have been provided guidance by the Department of Health to identify and quarantine any passengers presenting Ebola symptoms in flights or at airports.

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7. DIBP has developed a Border Operations response for humanitarian arrivals from West Africa for these and future arrivals. Please see the Hot Issues Brief at [Attachment A](#) for more detailed information on border checks.
8. We have shared these processes with the Department of Health, as the lead agency coordinating the Australian government response to this disease. We have also indicated that we will institute any additional requirements the Department of Health may deem necessary.
  - We also share information such as arrival dates and details of medical appointments with the Department of Health as they become available.
9. While the Department of Health has, to date, been responsible for communication with State and Territory health authorities, DIBP is now engaging directly with relevant State and Territory health authorities.
10. Given the particular concerns expressed by the government of Queensland, we have prepared two versions of letters to State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers that outlines processes in place to manage health checks of humanitarian entrants from affected areas. At [Attachment B](#) is a letter to the Hon Campbell Newman, Premier of Queensland. At [Attachment C](#) is a generic letter to all Premiers and Chief Ministers. We will amend the letters if your preference is to write to Health Ministers in States and Territories.

### Background

#### Grant/Arrival data – humanitarian visa holders

- 175 persons from West Africa were granted humanitarian visas between 1 July 2013 and 28 September 2014.
  - 126 persons have arrived (at 13 October 2014)
  - 49 persons are yet to arrive.

Date of Arrival	Number of entrants	Destination
15 October	4 13	Melbourne Queensland
16 October	13	Adelaide
23 October	3 1	Sydney Queensland
24 October	11	South Australia
No travel finalised	4	Unknown

- At 13 October 2014, a total of 691 persons from West Africa (comprising 188 refugee and 503 SHP) are currently at various stages of processing at overseas missions.
  - Not all these will proceed to visa grant.

#### Health and related checks undertaken by Refugee/SHP Applicants From Ebola-Affected Areas

##### Pre-Visa checks

- All Humanitarian Programme applicants are required to meet prescribed health criteria in order to be eligible for a visa grant.

##### Post-visa/pre-arrival checks – International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- IOM is contracted by DIBP to conduct departure health checks.

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- Once the visa is granted, all refugee and special humanitarian programme (SHP) visa holders are offered departure health checks (DHC).
  - While attendance at these checks is usually voluntary, all Refugee and SHP visa holders from West Africa attend DHC.
- IOM has strict protocols and procedures in place since August 2014 to manage the issue of Ebola for persons from affected areas:
  - IOM contacts people scheduled for departure and administers a questionnaire and distributes information material on Ebola to visa holders.
  - The pre-departure health check is usually conducted 7-10 days prior to travel.
  - In line with special arrangements, IOM also conducts a second pre-embarkation check with focus on Ebola symptoms.
  - All cases coming out of West Africa will be marked as a General Alert and must be seen by a doctor within 72 hours of arrival in Australia.

### Border checks upon arrival at Australian airports

- As part of routine procedures, incoming flights to Australia have on-board announcements asking passengers who are feeling unwell with fever, chills or sweats to alert a crew member.
  - Crew members would alert border protection and biosecurity staff for health follow up.
- Department of Agriculture staff also provide written information and advice to passengers at the border who are unsure of what they should do if they begin to feel unwell.
- The health of all travellers who have originated their travel from, or have identified that they have spent considerable time in an identified West African country will be checked by border agencies staff.
- There are also banners and electronic messaging at all international airports to raise awareness of the symptoms of Ebola.

Please see Hot Issues Brief at [Attachment A](#) for more detailed information on border checks.

### Post-arrival checks for humanitarian visa holders

- As all applicants from affected areas appear as a 'General Alert', the Humanitarian Settlement Services provider makes an appointment ahead of arrival with an appropriate medical practitioner.
- Usually, the applicant would attend a medical appointment within 72 hours of arrival in Australia.
  - However it is most likely that in the situation of clients from West Africa, the service provider will arrange an immediate appointment for these cases, due to duty of care considerations.
    - This will ensure that they are further counselled by a medical practitioner about what to do if they develop a fever or become unwell.
- The department is providing information on details of medical appointments to the Department of Health as they become available.

### **Consultation – internal/external** *(Mandatory Field)*

External Consultation – Department of Health

Internal Consultation - Border, Refugee and Onshore Services Division; Visa Framework and Family Policy Branch

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### Client service implications

Nil

### Financial/systems/legislation/deregulation implications

Nil

### Attachments

**Attachment A** Hot Issues Brief – Management of health checks for humanitarian visa holders from countries affected by Ebola Virus Disease

**Attachment B** Draft letter to the Hon Campbell Newman, Premier of Queensland

**Attachment C** Draft letter to State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers

#### Authorising Officer



Alison Larkins  
First Assistant Secretary  
Refugee, Humanitarian and International Policy Division

14/10/2014

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer Daniel Boyer, Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch Ph

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Through Deputy Secretary Southern *WS* 14/10/14

CC Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection  
Secretary  
Deputy Secretaries  
First Assistant Secretary, Border, Refugees and Onshore Services Division  
Chief Medical Officer, DIBP  
Assistant Secretary, Visa Framework and Family Policy Branch

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## HOT ISSUES BRIEF

### PROCESSES IN PLACE FOR HEALTH CHECKS OF REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN ENTRANTS FROM EBOLA-AFFECTED AREAS

Information current as at: 14.30, 14 October 2014

#### NATURE OF ISSUE:

- Processes in place to ensure additional checks for offshore humanitarian entrants from Ebola-affected areas.

#### DATE AND TIME OF EVENT:

- Arrival of 30 humanitarian entrants on 15 and 16 October 2014 from Guinea.

#### ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- Prior to visa grant, all applicants are required to meet prescribed health criteria in order to be eligible for a visa grant.
- Once the visa is granted, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will contact all humanitarian visa holders from Ebola-affected countries to organise Departure Health Checks (DHC) prior to departure for Australia.
  - i. This includes a Pre-departure health check usually conducted 7-10 days prior to travel; and
  - ii. a second last minute pre-embarkation health check with particular focus on Ebola symptoms.
- If there is a clinical suspicion of Ebola, the person, together with their family members and close contacts, will be quarantined and their travel to Australia postponed.
- Entrants to be identified and met on their arrival, in conjunction and with the assistance of relevant sponsors who will assist with any language barriers.
- From this point the travellers will be escorted to a private room. Queensland State health officials will oversee the vetting arrangements. We understand that Federal Department of Health officials will also be present to work in cooperation with their state colleagues.
- We expect that Queensland Health personnel will ask specific questions about where they have been, whether they have been in contact with ill people and so on.
- Depending on the outcome of that process, the arrivals will either be permitted to depart for their settlement arrangements, or will be requested to undertake voluntary quarantine. If that is not considered satisfactory, Queensland State powers will be used to enforce quarantine.

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- We can, however, cancel a permanent visa offshore or in immigration clearance if the person has never previously travelled to Australia as the holder of that permanent visa.
- Permanent visa holders who are already onshore are more appropriately dealt with by public health measures in place for the wider Australian community, as opposed to cancellation.

*If asked:*

*Why is the department continuing to take humanitarian entrants from Ebola affected areas?*

- The department is delivering the Humanitarian Programme as set out in the Minister's priorities.
- The Minister is able to make changes to the intake of the humanitarian programme at any time.
- It would be appropriate for the Minister to be guided by advice from the Department of Health in relation to the public health risk of humanitarian entrants from Ebola-affected areas.
- Should the Department of Health advice of an heightened public health risk, the department will immediately review their procedures.
- Prior to visa grant, all applicants are required to meet prescribed health criteria in order to be eligible for a visa grant.

*If asked:*

*What measures are in place to prevent humanitarian entrants from being exposed to Ebola after the visa has been granted?*

- The majority of the visa holders live in camps managed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the daily living arrangements are supervised by UNHCR.
- Once the visa is granted, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will contact all humanitarian visa holders from Ebola-affected countries to organise Departure Health Checks (DHC) prior to departure for Australia.
  - This includes a Pre-departure health check usually conducted 7-10 days prior to travel; and
  - a second last minute pre-embarkation health check with particular focus on Ebola symptoms.
- If there is a clinical suspicion of Ebola, the person, together with their family members and close contacts, will be quarantined and their travel to Australia postponed.



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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Campbell Newman MP  
Premier of Queensland  
PO Box 15185  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Premier *Campbell*

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

I understand that a group of 13 humanitarian entrants from Guinea are scheduled to arrive in Brisbane on 15 October 2014. I appreciate your government's concerns around the potential public health risks that these arrivals may present.

While the Commonwealth Department of Health is the lead agency that is coordinating the Australian Government's response to this disease, I would like to assure you that my department has instituted a number of additional checks for humanitarian entrants arriving from locations affected by EVD. My department is working in close consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health who is fully aware of these processes.

As you may know, all applicants are required to meet prescribed health criteria in order to be eligible for a visa grant. Additionally, all humanitarian entrants undergo two separate departure health checks administered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) doctors. The first check is conducted 7-10 days prior to travel followed by a second last minute pre-embarkation health check with particular focus on Ebola symptoms.

Upon arrival in Australia, all humanitarian entrants are also subject to checks by Australian border staff in accordance with processes established by the Commonwealth Department of Health. As part of routine procedures, incoming flights to Australia have on-board announcements asking passengers who are feeling unwell with fever, chills or sweats to alert a crew member. Crew members would alert border protection and biosecurity staff for health follow up. Department of Agriculture staff also provide written information and advice to passengers at the border who are unsure of what they should do if they begin to feel unwell.

The health of all travellers who have originated their travel from, or have identified that they have spent considerable time in an identified West African country will be checked by border agency staff. There are also banners and electronic messaging at all international airports to raise awareness of the symptoms of Ebola. My Department has developed a Border Operations response in cooperation with Queensland Health and Commonwealth Department of Health officials to manage these and future humanitarian arrivals.

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After their arrival these entrants will be subject to the processes and safeguards deemed necessary by your public health authorities, developed in consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health and State and Territory health authorities.

We will continue to consult closely with the Department of Health and be guided by their advice in relation to any additional processes that need to be put in place for humanitarian entrants from EVD-affected countries.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

15/10/2014

cc The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Denis Napthine MP  
Premier of Victoria  
1 Treasury Place  
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Premier

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Den'.

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

While the Commonwealth Department of Health is the lead agency that is coordinating the Australian Government's response to this disease, I would like to assure you that my department has instituted a number of additional checks for humanitarian entrants arriving from locations affected by EVD. My department is working in close consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health who is fully aware of these processes.

As you may know, all applicants are required to meet prescribed health criteria in order to be eligible for a visa grant. Additionally, all humanitarian entrants undergo two separate departure health checks administered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) doctors. The first check is conducted 7-10 days prior to travel followed by a second last minute pre-embarkation health check with particular focus on Ebola symptoms.

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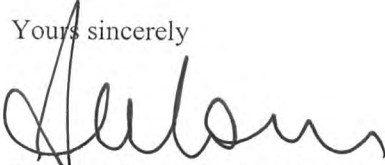


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We will continue to consult closely with the Commonwealth Department of Health and be guided by their advice in relation to any additional processes that need to be put in place for humanitarian entrants from EVD-affected countries.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

15 / 10 / 2014

cc The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Mike Baird MP  
Premier of New South Wales  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike', written over the typed name 'Mike'.

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

While the Commonwealth Department of Health is the lead agency that is coordinating the Australian Government's response to this disease, I would like to assure you that my department has instituted a number of additional checks for humanitarian entrants arriving from locations affected by EVD. My department is working in close consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health who is fully aware of these processes.

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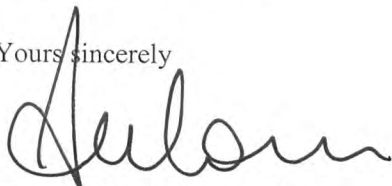
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The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

15 / 10/2014

cc The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Jay Wetherill  
Premier of South Australia  
GPO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Premier

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

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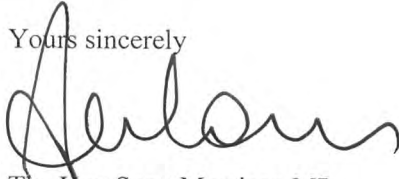
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Yours sincerely



The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

15 / 10/2014

cc The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Colin Barnett MLA  
Premier of Western Australia  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Premier *Colin*

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

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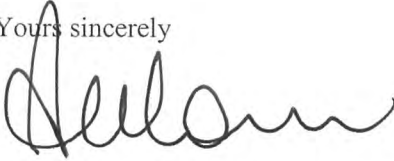


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Yours sincerely



The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

15/10/2014

cc The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Will Hodgman MP  
Premier of Tasmania  
GPO Box 123  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Premier *W.H.*

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

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Yours sincerely



The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

15 / 10 2014

cc The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Adam Giles MLA  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory  
GPO Box 3146  
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Premier *Adam*

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

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The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

(5/10/2014

cc The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**The Hon Scott Morrison MP**  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

The Hon Katy Gallagher MLA  
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Chief Minister

**Processes in place to check health of humanitarian entrants arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease**

I am writing to outline the additional processes instituted by my department in relation to health checking of humanitarian visa holders arriving from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

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The Hon Scott Morrison MP

**Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**

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