

Health Requirement Review

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 November 2023 11:02 AM
To: Health Requirement Review
Subject: Submission to the health requirement review

Dear Committee Members,

From 2000 until 2008, I lived in New Zealand, where I was a lecturer at Victoria University Wellington. My family naturally accompanied me. Our profoundly-disabled son, [REDACTED], benefited greatly from New Zealand's outstanding special education system. He also received excellent care from the wonderful staff at Wellington Hospital, through his extensive health struggles including life-threatening epilepsy, complex orthopaedic problems and repeated fractures. He received physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, speech therapy and music therapy; as he grew bigger, his successive wheelchairs were supplied, fitted and modified to his unusual shape. All this came to us free, through the New Zealand public health system.

I was consequently aghast when, after we had returned to Australia, a New Zealand friend working here wanted to bring her adult son -- with much milder disabilities than [REDACTED] -- to join her, only too be told that she could not, due to Australia's rules regarding the Significant Cost Threshold.

I have since read with considerable distress of other families with disabled children who have had their visas revoked due to the cost of their care.

On the basis of our family's experience, I respectfully submit that:

- **Health waivers should be made available for all applicants for all visa subclasses, and made automatic for all children born in Australia to parents who hold a temporary residence visa**
- **The Significant Cost Threshold should be doubled, to bring it into line with comparable international jurisdictions like Canada and New Zealand**
- **Special education should be removed from community cost calculations, and from Medical Officer of the Commonwealth costings**
- **The 'one fails all fail', rule regarding family units be revoked**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

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[REDACTED]
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