



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS**

**RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT HEALTH ADVICE PANEL  
QUARTERLY REPORT 1 APRIL 2019 – 30 JUNE 2019**

I refer to the summary of the Independent Health Advice Panel (the Panel) report tabled in Parliament on 11 September 2019. The summary report outlines the operations of the Panel for the second quarter, being the period from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019, and the support provided to the Panel by the Department of Home Affairs (the Department).

I note that this quarter has seen the Panel increase from two to five members with three appointments from key legislated professional bodies, the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

I note that during this reporting period, the Panel reviewed 15 cases and made six (6) recommendations for medical transfer to Australia under section 198F of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act). Moreover, the Panel upheld the decision to refuse the medical transfer of nine (9) transitory persons to Australia during this quarter on the basis of the facilities available for treatment in Papua New Guinea (PNG) being adequate. The Department continues to support the Panel to perform its functions through the IHAP Secretariat and provided all information requested by the Panel within the agreed timeframes.

During this reporting period, the Department transferred four (4) persons from PNG and 20 transitory persons from Nauru on the recommendation of our contracted medical services providers under section 198B of the Act.

I wish to thank the Panel for their efforts during the quarter ending 30 June 2019.

I note the next Quarterly Report is due after 30 September 2019.

PETER DUTTON