



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MIGRATION PROFESSION SUPPORTS HEALTH WAIVER**

The Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) has welcomed Senator Chris Evans' recently announced proposal for health waivers to be considered for onshore applicants for regional, state/territory and employer sponsored visas.

The health waiver provisions recognise that there are often compassionate or compelling circumstances experienced by a family or community that require the grant of a visa to an applicant and his or her family members despite not passing the health test.

The recent case of the Moeller family highlighted the net benefits brought to Australia by the visa applicant when measured against the material cost of the health care required by the visa applicant's family members.

Today the CEO of MIA, Ms Maurene Horder, commended the move as a rational and humane change to the status quo, "If this gets the states' support, as we hope it will, we will see special circumstance health issues taken into account at the initial stage of a visa application rather than having to pursue a process that may have to end up with ministerial intervention."

Ms Horder continued, "The case of the Moeller family and their community is a good example. The community and the family suffered while the existing process only arrived at the appropriate outcome after an initial visa refusal, a failed appeal and finally ministerial intervention. A waiver at the first application stage would alleviate that."

**About MIA** - *The Migration Institute of Australia is the professional association for Australian migration service providers worldwide. It represents almost 2,000 registered migration agents who provide services to families, businesses and industries.*

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