

7. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

1. Rachel Mullins and Grant Cleland (Disabled Persons Association) attended the meeting at the invitation of the Chairperson and spoke on the Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities (Clause 3).
2. Ahmed M Ali (PEETO) addressed the Committee in conjunction with Clause 5, on the issues faced by refugees coming to live in Christchurch. He noted that there were three categories of refugees entering New Zealand, which included those brought in under the quota system, family reunification refugees, and those seeking political asylum. The level of immigration support for each of these options differed. Those brought in on the quota system gained the highest level of funding support, compared to asylum refugees who may wait up to three years for support and recognition.

Within the refugee community there were also differing levels of needs. In particular refugee women with children often had the greatest difficulty in gaining assistance due to lower levels of education, language barriers and restricted access to support systems due to their need to care for their children.