As the peak body for consumers and survivors in Victoria, we extend our solidarity to people beyond our borders, including those who are denied appropriate and safe medical care and mental health support.

The legislation passed today by parliament, known as the “Medevac repeal bill”, denies asylum seekers and refugees in Nauru and Papua New Guinea access to urgent and emergency medical treatment in Australia. This includes appropriate, safe, dignified trauma-informed mental health support.

Experiences of trauma, social displacement and torture are clearly evidenced to impact upon people’s mental health and emotional wellbeing. Therefore, VMIAC extends solidarity to people impacted by the decision today to deny appropriate and safe medical support (including mental health support) to these individuals.

Australia’s recent social and cultural history is deeply shaped by waves of immigration, both by choice and by seeking refuge. VMIAC makes a stand for the right for all people seeking medical and mental health support to have safe, respectful, informed choice and dignity.

Medevac repeal bill

VMIAC is unwavering in its commitment to human rights and social justice for people experiencing mental health challenges and/or emotional distress.

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