

**\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\***

14<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**CISA Welcomes Decision of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital to treat pregnant international students**

The Council of International Students Australia (CISA) welcomes the news that international students who have been in the country for at least 12 months will now receive obstetric care at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH).

Last year, it was revealed the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital was refusing to give obstetric care to international students, even though they were covered by Health Insurance. Public hospitals in Melbourne have similarly refused treatment which resulted in a student giving birth in a car park.

CISA calls on public hospitals in Melbourne to follow the example of the RBWH and start treating pregnant international students.

"Pregnancy is inherently complicated and our greatest fear is that denying a pregnant international student medical care will result in a death," said Heather Richards, CISA Welfare Officer.

The Federal Government has placed pressure on both the Queensland and Victoria Departments of Health to reverse the decisions in the respective State Capital cities.

"We have received no explanation from the State Departments of Health for the decision to refuse medical attention to pregnant students. It has caused distress to pregnant students, their families and the broader international student community. We all pay health insurance so that we will be given access to medical attention," said Aleem Nizari, CISA President.

International students who have been refused access to obstetric care should contact CISA at: [welfare@cisa.edu.au](mailto:welfare@cisa.edu.au).

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