



OZ KIWI MEDIA RELEASE

20th June 2017

Report on Oz Kiwi Canberra meetings

Oz Kiwi took its concerns to Canberra on Monday 19th of June, meeting with Federal Labor MP's Clare O'Neil, Dr Jim Chalmers, Julian Hill and Andrew Giles yesterday, plus Greens Senator Nick McKim. Meetings were also held with Senior Advisors to Senator Penny Wong (Labor), Senator Jacqui Lambie, Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore (NXT) and Senator Nick Xenophon (NXT), and Senator Brian Burston (One Nation).

The meetings focused on lobbying for the opposition and cross benches to block the Turnbull government's citizenship and higher education reforms that will negatively impact on New Zealanders. In particular:

- requiring citizenship applicants to have resided as a permanent resident for four years if applying for citizenship after 20 April 2017; and
- stripping New Zealanders of access to Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) at universities, instead making them to pay domestic full fees; and
- the 2017 Budget proposal that would see 'temporary residents' pay Capital Gains Tax on the sale of their main residence.

Kiwis arriving in Australia enter on a Special Category Visa (SCV) which entitles them to work and live in Australia indefinitely, and purchase property, but the SCV does not provide a fair pathway to citizenship or access to many government services, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme, even though they pay the same taxes as everyone else.

In January 2016 Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and then New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced a new permanent visa to commence on 1 July 2017. The **Independent Skilled 189 (New Zealand) visa** will allow up to 100,000 Kiwis, including their partners and dependents, to gain PR. Not all SCV-holder's will be eligible and a similar number still have no pathway to PR. Oz Kiwi will continue to advocate for this group.

The meetings were very productive, Oz Kiwi is confident that our concerns were heard and hopeful that the Bills can either be blocked or suitable amendments to protect New Zealanders made.

For more information or interviews contact:

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