



## OZ KIWI MEDIA RELEASE

20th November 2015

### Oz Kiwi Sydney public meeting with New Zealand Labour Party politicians

On Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, Oz Kiwi will host an a meeting in Sydney with Andrew Little (NZ Opposition Leader, Labour) and Phil Goff (NZ Shadow Defence Minister, former Labour leader, and former Foreign Affairs Minister and Trade Minister) on the situation facing Kiwis in Australia.

We encourage the public and media to come to this event as it will provide a great opportunity to meet two leading New Zealand politicians, and the Oz Kiwi team, to discuss the issues facing New Zealanders residing in Australia.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive at 6 pm with the formal proceedings beginning at 6.30 pm.

**When:**

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November

**Where:**

The Big Dig Archaeology Centre, YHA, 110 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, Sydney.

Due to limited space, those media wishing to attend will need to register. Please send an email to [media@ozkiwi2001.org](mailto:media@ozkiwi2001.org)

#### ISSUES FOR NEW ZEALANDERS RESIDENT IN AUSTRALIA

Kiwis arriving in Australia enter on a Special Category Visa (SCV) which entitles them to work and live and work in Australia indefinitely, but the SCV does not provide an avenue for citizenship or access to many government services, even though they pay the same taxes as everyone else.

Some of the services New Zealanders are excluded from include access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme [for which they must pay a levy for as part of their taxes], student loans, unemployment benefit, disability benefits, and some insurances. New Zealanders are even barred from applying for jobs in the Australian Defence Force.

Australians who move to New Zealand are treated more fairly. They're able to vote after one year, apply for citizenship after five years and receive all benefits in times of hardship and sickness.



Oz Kiwi Chair Tim Gassin said, "We're committed to working with politicians from both nations to find a reasonable solution. It is only through working together that we can expect to see a return to equitable treatment of trans-Tasman migrants."

"Where is the New Zealand in ANZAC? Equality and fairness is all we are asking for, please give Kiwis a fair go".

In recent months the situation of New Zealand citizens in being held in Australian immigration under the threat of detention has been a hot topic. Both Little and Goff oppose such a draconian policy and will meet with Australian politicians to discuss this matter and the wider issues outlined above.

**For more information or interviews contact:**

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**Oz Kiwi Chair Tim Gassin on 0459 383 759 or [tim@ozkiwi2001.org](mailto:tim@ozkiwi2001.org)**