



## OZ KIWI MEDIA RELEASE

22 August 2016

### Oz Kiwi takes concerns to New Zealand politicians

The not for profit group Oz Kiwi, advocating for New Zealanders living in Australia, will be in Wellington on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of August to meet with:

- senior New Zealand Labour MPs, including Leader Andrew Little and Deputy Leader Annette King;
- Marama Davidson, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand spokesperson for Maori Development, Social Housing, Human Rights & Pacific Peoples; and
- officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT) and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

The meetings will call for the Key Government to advocate for the rights of New Zealanders living in Australia, including access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and a fair pathway to citizenship for all long term residents.

Kiwis arriving in Australia enter on a temporary Special Category Visa (SCV) which entitles them to work and live in Australia indefinitely, and purchase property, 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 NDIS, which they must pay a levy for as part of their taxes, unemployment benefit, disability benefits, and some insurances. New Zealanders are even barred from applying for jobs in the Australian Defence Force and most are not eligible for student loans.

Australians who move to New Zealand are treated more fairly. They are able to vote after one year, after two years receive benefits in times of hardship and sickness, can access student loans after three years, then after five years can apply for citizenship.

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".

**For more information or interviews contact:**

**Media liaison Joanne Cox via +64 22 303 2294\* or [media@ozkiwi2001.org](mailto:media@ozkiwi2001.org)**

**Oz Kiwi Chair Tim Gassin on +61 459 383 759 or [tim.gassin@ozkiwi2001.org](mailto:tim.gassin@ozkiwi2001.org)**

\* New Zealand mobile, only contactable between Monday 22 August and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August.