

## ANZAC CITIZENSHIP AGREEMENT

Rise up Australia party is appalled at the existing, intolerant, irrational and unreasonable prohibitions on Citizens of New Zealand who desire to access Australian Citizenship, many of whom have lived and worked in this country for decades.

An estimated 600,000 plus New Zealanders live and work in Australia, and while having made a valuable contribution to the culture and success of the nation are to find out when something goes wrong they have



New Zealand Prime Minister John Key and Malcolm Turnbull. Photo: Edwina Pickles

very few rights.

New Zealanders have a higher workforce contribution in Australia compared with the overall population, paying an estimated \$5 billion in tax yearly; but they cannot vote or claim welfare. And the Australian government has made it so difficult for them to become Citizens that most of them don't bother to try anymore. "They are working and contributing to the economy, paying taxes and levies," says Tim Gassin, chair of the advocacy group OzKiwi. "But while they are covered by Medicare they are not entitled to access any benefits should they fall on hard times."

Rise Up Australia Party believes this is hardly fair and downright unjust when considering their overall involvement and contribution to our society. This needs to change and citizenship has to be made attainable for our Anzac partners. This one story tells how barbaric our current policy regarding New Zealand/Australian Citizenship is:

'Honey Inia, 34, has lived in Australia for 15 years. A week after she arrived from New Zealand she got a job and worked until her twins were born nearly seven years ago, then worked part time. In their 14 years together, she and her de facto partner established a house, mortgage and car."it was all joined up." Left as sole provider for two children when her partner passed away last June, she went to Centrelink "to see what I am entitled to – it was nothing". Because she is a New Zealand citizen her children are disadvantaged, even though they are Australian. "I still had no options," she says. "I even asked for a widow's benefit: I didn't qualify for that because I am not over 65." [Sydney morning Herald - April 15 2016]

In 2001 the direct path to citizenship was cut off. "Then they knocked off social security access," says Gassin. "In 2005 they removed access to higher-education loans. In 2012 it was the removal of disability services." Gassin says not a lot has changed under February's new deal between John Key and Malcolm Turnbull. New Zealanders who have earned at least \$54,000 each year for five years and meet health criteria can apply for a different class of visa – one that would in turn allow them to apply for citizenship. It applies only to special category visa-holders who have arrived in Australia since 2001.

It seems strange that while We have opened our borders to people from so many nations around the world, even countries that have been estranged to us in the past, and have offered them Australian citizenship, our ANZAC allies, our mates that we fought with in two world wars are denied the privilege. Furthermore; Australians when they reach the 'age of travel', New Zealand is often the first place they go. It is a place where we feel safe and are happy when our children have chose it as the destination for their overseas adventures; we even liken N Z travel to that of travelling to another state of Australia. No Visa required, no restricted staying time, you can vote after one year and claim benefits after two. And if you have a baby you are entitled to all the healthcare facilities and benefits a national would have. We are treated like 'family' from day one.

It is not surprising then that there has long been anger among New Zealanders at being treated like second-class citizens in Australia where they have no choice, but to live unprotected and without options of government support since the changes to legislation in 2001. New Zealanders' rights have been slowly whittled away since that time.

There must be Change!

No Longer should New Zealanders in Australia be stuck between a rock and a hard place. They are working, paying their taxes, and raising families, like most hard working Australian citizens. They need to feel they belong to the nation too. Therefore, we are calling on the government to change the current laws.

Our Policy:

Rise Up Australia party will .....

- **campaign to repeal the 2001\*\*\* laws which** have stopped New Zealanders applying for citizenship and accessing social security benefits.
- Propose, that all law abiding\* New Zealanders who have lived and worked in the country for over two years, having been employed for at least 40 weeks out of each year and having had a permanent Australian address for at least 6 months at the time of application, be eligible for citizenship.
- Propose, that self employed New Zealanders now living in Australia. who have resided at their current address for at least 6 months and been at the time of application self employed for two years without receiving benefits;\*\* be eligible for citizenship.
- Amend social security laws to include all New Zealand citizens who can prove they currently reside in Australia, have held a job for at least 6 months and are registered as looking for work.
- All benefits that are currently given to New Zealanders be retained by them.
- Abolish any secret deals made with the NZ Government to disadvantage New Zealand citizens in Australia,
- Give preference to New Zealand immigrants in honor of the ANZAC s and the same said treaty.
- Give Russell Crowe Australian Citizenship to honor him as an Australian ambassador who is, as an International Celebrity promoting our nation abroad. [no need for him to apply-see foot note, below]

\* Conditions would apply

\*\* 1] Pregnancy benefits allowed

\*\* 2] Family payment allowed

\*\*\* The Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (New Zealand citizens) Act 2001.

**Ref:** *Sydney morning Herald - April 15 2016*

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/new-zealanders-in-australia-are-still-treated-like-secondclass-citizens-20160414-go691n.htm>

**Foot Note:** *Re: Russell Crowe.*

Rise Up Australia Party would like to put the record straight to end much rumor and misinformation that has been stated as fact. Also, please bear in mind, because of our current laws it would have been reasonable for Mr Crowe to assume he would not be eligible for Australian citizenship, however; .....

***MARCH 25th 2015 - SYDNEY MORNING HERALD – states .....***

**Russell Crowe never applied for Australian citizenship, says Immigration Department.**

*The Daily Telegraph* reported that in 2006 that Crowe had "intended to become an Australian citizen at an Australia Day concert on the lawns of Parliament House" but the event was canned because "the government wasn't able to facilitate the process in time", according to a spokeswoman from Channel 10, which was to broadcast the ceremony. The report went on to say that "seven years on, Crowe still hasn't satisfied the protocols".

However, that is not at all the same as Crowe having his application for citizenship rejected in 2006 and 2013, as has been widely reported this week.

However, the Department of Immigration has told Fairfax it has no record of either Crowe's applications or its alleged rejections. "According to Departmental records, Mr Crowe has not submitted an application for a permanent visa or for Australian citizenship," the department said in a written response to questions.....

"Should Mr Crowe apply for and be granted a permanent visa, there are a variety of options that he may use to meet the eligibility requirements, including the residence requirements."