

RIGHTS COMPARISON

New Zealand long term residents of Australia versus Australians residing in New Zealand



March 2016

| Issue | NZ citizens in Australia (non-protected Special Category Visa) | Australian citizens in NZ |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Right to vote | No | Yes, after one year |
| Eligible for citizenship | New pathway from 1 July 2017, for some who arrived between 26 Feb 2001 and 19 Feb 2016 | Yes, after five years |
| Citizenship granted to children at birth | No. Children born in Australia will only be granted citizenship if they usually reside in Australia until their 10th birthday | Yes |
| Unemployment benefits | No* | Yes, after two years |
| Sickness benefits | No* | Yes, after two years |
| Single parent benefits | No | Yes, after two years |
| Public housing | Varies by state | Yes, after two years |
| Disability services | Currently varies by state, but in future will be ineligible under NDIS | Yes |
| Student loans | Limited access after 10 years residence, if arrived as a dependent minor | Yes, after three years |
| Student allowances | No | Yes, after three years |
| Student travel concessions | Varies by state | Yes |
| Employment in public service | Not eligible for employment in Federal Public Service, but eligible for employment in some state public services | Yes |
| Employment in defence force | No | Yes |

* Non protected SCV holders may be eligible after ten years of continuous residence in Australia for a one-off payment of Newstart, Sickness, or Youth Allowance of no more than six months. They are not eligible for other allowances under any circumstances.

