



OZ KIWI MEDIA RELEASE

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Oz Kiwi to wind up after eleven years of advocacy

The not-for-profit group Oz Kiwi, established in 2013 to advocate for the rights of New Zealanders living in Australia, will formally wind up on **30 June 2024**. After eleven years of mahi / work on behalf of New Zealanders and having achieved our core mission of a fair and affordable pathway to Australian citizenship, the time has come to end our work.

Australian Labor Government's fair pathway to citizenship for New Zealanders

After the Australian Labour Party (ALP) won office in May 2022, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese publicly committed to a review of the rights of New Zealanders living in Australia, including the path to citizenship. Prime Minister Albanese and then New Zealand Prime Minister Dame Jacinda Ardern announced in July 2022 that the review would mean positive reforms for Kiwis in Australia.

The review led to the announcement of a new direct pathway to citizenship on 21 April 2023, commencing on 1 July that year:

<https://ozkiwi2001.org/articles/joint-statement-by-nz-and-aus-prime-ministers/>

Special Category Visa (SCV) reform

The visa reform came after a decade of advocacy by Oz Kiwi to reform the non-protected Special Category Visa (NPSCV). The NPSCV allows New Zealanders to live and work in Australia indefinitely, but since 27 February 2001 offered no direct pathway to permanent residency (PR) or citizenship. It is difficult to ascertain exact numbers of affected New Zealanders given they enter Australia on the same visa to live and work, to holiday, for business or to study. Approximately 250,000 Kiwis were denied a path to become Australian citizens leading to inter-generational disadvantage and disenfranchisement.

From 2015 the ALP maintained a policy that no one shall remain indefinitely on a temporary visa, and specifically to provide New Zealanders with a pathway to citizenship:

<https://ozkiwi2001.org/articles/australian-labour-party-national-conference/>

Oz Kiwi is thrilled with the reforms the Albanese Labor Government introduced. Our job is done, thanks to the ALP. Particular thanks go to Prime Minister Albanese for his support and collaboration with Dame Jacinda Ardern and New Zealand Labour to bring this much-needed reform to fruition within his first year in office. We also thank the New Zealand High Commission in Canberra, particularly former High Commissioners Chris Seed and Dame Annette King and their staff for their mahi to achieve the direct pathway.

Special thanks and much aroha / love go to Australian Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers aka the Member for New Zealanders in the Federal Parliament, for his dedication in educating the ALP Caucus and for his on-going support for this change which pre-dates even his entering Parliament in 2013.

Our thanks and much aroha also to Federal Minister for Home Affairs and Cyber Security Clare O'Neil and Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Andrew Giles for their dedication and mahi for reform since we first met in 2015. Over the years both have gone above and beyond to advocate for Kiwis' rights and for their inclusion in legislation and policy reforms. They have addressed Parliament to highlight the issues and written publicly of the injustices the SCV has created. Kia ora rawa atu / many thanks.

Media can contact Oz Kiwi Chair Joanne Cox via admin@ozkiwi2001.org

