

# ACT Immigration Policy

## **Goals**

- To attract back to New Zealand, able and productive former New Zealand citizens.
- To attract able and productive immigrants.
- To retain able and productive New Zealanders.

## **Background**

- Immigrants bring new hopes, new ideas, skills and entrepreneurial attitudes.
- They challenge our way of doing things, they wake us up.
- They provide links with markets.
- They bring cultural enrichment and diversity.
- They strengthen the All Blacks.
- Immigration has exposed weaknesses in our occupational licensing arrangements, employment laws, schools, housing and welfare systems.
- Migration is a good barometer of New Zealand's attractiveness, however New Zealand has become less attractive during the last decade.

## **Principles**

- Policies that promote the prosperity of New Zealanders at large will also best turn migration outflows to inflows.
- We should be aiming for net inflows of around 30-40,000 persons per year.
- We should be aiming to attract the ablest and most productive people (while making allowance for refugees, and family reunion cases).
- Immigrants must not have easy access to welfare.
- There should be no special government privileges for immigrants – these are a recipe for multicultural strife.

- It is essential to reduce employment law barriers, including addressing issues of anti-competitive occupational licensing arrangements.
- The education system should be able to respond more freely to any language problems arising from immigration.
- Private agencies – banks, lawyers, real estate agents, cultural and ethnic associations and the like – are best able to ease the transition of immigrants.
- New Zealand cannot afford the politics of envy. Labour’s ‘soak-the-rich’ policy of raising the top income tax rate provides our best and brightest with yet another reason for emigrating, while making us less attractive to skilled immigrants.
- The points system for determining eligibility is superior to earlier approaches.
- Immigration consultants should not be required to be licensed.
- Governments should not try to control the geographical spread of immigration.

### ***Policy Detail***

- Cut tax rates in order to make New Zealand a more attractive place to live
- Cap the tax burden of the highest-earning individuals to attract talented entrepreneurs, and others with valuable international connections, and to retain New Zealanders who would otherwise leave.
- Reduce occupational licensing as a barrier to the use of immigrants’ skills.
- Adopt other immigrant welcoming policies within an overall annual quota set at a level that the country can absorb.
- Introduce a five year probation period during which immigrants who offend can be sent home if convicted of an imprisonable offence