



13 September 2017

Ms Toni Matulick
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Matulick,

Re: Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee - Hansard Evidence Correction

I am writing to correct my response to a question asked on Thursday 31 August 2017 during the hearing of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2017 (the Bill).

On page 23 of the Proof Committee Hansard, the Chair, Senator Macdonald asked 'Is there any discretion that the minister or his delegate have in relation to citizenship in the transitional phase?'

I replied: 'The short version is, no, there are no specific transitional arrangements. If you applied before 20 April, you are processed under the old rules'.

I would like to amend my response to this question as follows:

There is a transitional arrangement in the Bill to preserve the current operation of section 22 (General residence requirement) in relation to certain New Zealand citizens to be determined under a new legislative instrument. The instrument will determine New Zealand citizens who hold a Subclass 189 (Skilled Independent (New Zealand stream)) visa. For those New Zealand citizens, the current general residence requirement will continue to apply after the commencement of the Bill.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification that will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee.

Yours sincerely,

David Wilden
First Assistant Secretary
Immigration and Citizenship Policy Division