

## **Statement Against Pauline Hanson's Proposed Amendment to the Citizenship Law.**

### **1. Core Australian Values**

I recognise and adopt the following core Australian values:

- Respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual, freedom of religion, commitment to the rule of law, Parliamentary democracy, equality of men and women and a spirit of egalitarianism that embraces mutual respect, tolerance, fair play and compassion for those in need and pursuit of the public good;
- Equality of opportunity for individuals, regardless of their race, religion or ethnic background; and

### **2. Citizenship**

I understand that Australian citizenship:

- Is a shared identity, a common bond which unites all Australians while respecting their diversity;
- Involves reciprocal rights and responsibilities; and
- Is a declaration of our loyalty to Australia and its people.

### **3. English Test for Citizenship and other proposed conditions:**

I **DO NOT** support the following conditions imposed by the proposed *AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENT FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2018*:

- That applicants should be permanent resident for at least eight years before they are eligible to apply for citizenship (Rationale: It is too long);
- That applicants provide evidence of competent English language proficiency comparable to IELTS Level 5. (Rationale: The current method of testing is sufficient. It tests people to a conversational level. We do not believe a high level of English competency is necessary for the understanding of Australian core values or the responsibilities of being a good citizen. Hence, the proposed new English language test should be discarded); And,
- That a two-year bar (introduced by Regulations or Legislation) be imposed those applicants.