

11 December 2023

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proactive release

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OIA 28905

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I refer to your email of 17 November 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

**Part One: Migration Statistics**

**How many New Zealand citizens have moved to Australia in the year 2023 up until the present date this OIA is received and accepted?**

**Can you provide a monthly breakdown of these migration numbers for 2023?**

*Part Two: Citizenship acquisition post policy change*

*Since the policy change on July 1, 2023, allowing Special Category Visa (SCV) holders direct access to Australian citizenship, how many New Zealand citizens have applied for Australian citizenship?*

*Of those who applied, how many have been granted Australian citizenship?*

*Can you provide a monthly breakdown of the number of New Zealand citizens who have applied for and been granted Australian citizenship since July 1, 2023?*

*For the same periods above, can you please provide a breakdown as to the nature of these New Zealanders occupations?*

*Part Three: Comparison with previous years*

**How do the migration and citizenship acquisition figures for 2023 compare with those of the previous year (2022)?**

**Please provide the total number of New Zealand citizens who migrated to Australia and those who acquired Australian citizenship in 2022, with a monthly breakdown.**

*Part Four: Impact assessment*

*Has there been any assessment or report conducted regarding the impact of the new citizenship pathway for New Zealanders in Australia on migration trends? If yes, please provide the findings or summaries of these assessments or reports.*

On 28 November 2023, you were advised that 'Part One', and the bolded parts of 'Part Three' of your request were partially transferred to Stats NZ because the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry)(section 14(b)(i) of the OIA refers).

Regarding the following part of your request:

*Since the policy change on July 1, 2023, allowing Special Category Visa (SCV) holders direct access to Australian citizenship, how many New Zealand citizens have applied for Australian citizenship?*

Information in scope of this part of your request is withheld in full under the following section of the OIA:

- 6(b)(i); to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.

The remainder of your request, including the remainder of part three (in so far as it relates to citizenship), is refused in full under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA because the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

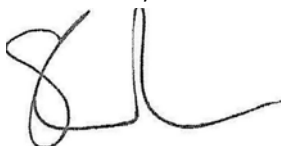
I note that the Australian Government and their Department of Home Affairs have some information that may be relevant to your request on their website:

[www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/citizenship-statistics](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/citizenship-statistics)

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade