



Australian Government
**Department of Immigration
and Border Protection**

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dunstone

I am writing to provide clarification to the Hansard transcript of the Senate Estimates hearing held on 5 May 2016 by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for the Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio.

I attended this hearing as a representative of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. On page 107 of the Hansard, in response to a question from Senator Alex Gallacher in relation to the length of time the additional pathway to permanent residence for New Zealand citizens will remain open, I replied "No, it is not indefinite. You have to be here for five years from the date of announcement, so five years from the date of announcement the pathway will no longer be open, assuming the current parameters continue."

While this answer is factually correct, I would like to provide a clarification to the Committee to ensure the intent of my response is understood. The pathway is available for New Zealand citizens who arrived in Australia after 26 February 2001, but on or before 19 February 2016, the date of the announcement. Therefore, no the pathway is not indefinite. To be eligible for this pathway, a New Zealand citizen must have been resident in Australia for the five years immediately prior to submitting their application, meet all relevant criteria, and have shown a commitment and contribution to Australia. The pathway will remain open to those who meet the eligibility requirements, and they may apply at any time in the future, assuming the current parameters continue.

I would appreciate it if the Hansard record is altered accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



David Wilden
First Assistant Secretary
Immigration and Citizenship Policy

5/ May 2016