



THE HON KEVIN ANDREWS MP
Federal Member for Menzies

MEDIA RELEASE

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PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS INVITED ON NEW TEMPORARY PARENT VISA

The Turnbull Coalition Government confirmed it will implement its election commitment to introduce a new temporary sponsored parent visa. The new temporary sponsored parent visa will allow Australians to sponsor their parents to stay in Australia for up to five years.

Member for Menzies, the Hon Kevin Andrews has welcomed the initiative and said it is essential to ensuring the government's policy settings meet the growing demand for flexible visa options for parents of Australian citizens.

Mr Andrews said flexible visa options for sponsored parents of Australian citizens was an important issue within Menzies.

"The Coalition Government recognises that many Australian migrant communities face particular pressures through the separation of children from parents and grandchildren from grandparents," Mr Andrews said.

The Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Alex Hawke, released a Discussion Paper inviting comment on ways to enhance existing visa arrangements to enable sponsored parents to visit their family in Australia for a continuous period of up to five years.

"I invite all interested communities in our electorate to make a submission to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and to put forward their ideas to make a temporary parent visa work best for families," he said.

"We want to help families reunite and spend time together, while ensuring that we do so in a way that does not burden Australia's health care system.

"The Australian Government believes that visiting parents should have the opportunity to spend time with children and grandchildren who live in Australia,"

"The number of permanent visa places for parents made available in the migration programme is small and waiting times are up to 30 years. The Government's intention is that any new temporary parent visa arrangement should help offset these issues, while allowing Australia to benefit socially through having united families and cohesive communities," Mr Andrews said.

The Turnbull Government will implement this important election commitment for migrant families in 2017.

Public submissions must be made by midnight, Monday 31 October 2016; to make a submission, send an email to temporary.parent.visa@border.gov.au.

Background

The Discussion Paper will reflect the Government's election commitment announcement of 21 June 2016, with the key requirements of a temporary parent visa including:

1. Limiting the burden on health care:
 - a. entry and stay is not to burden Australia's health care system, and adequate private health insurance from an Australian provider must be obtained by the parent.
2. Sponsorship:
 - a. applicants are to be sponsored by their Australian citizen child; and
 - b. will include a bond arrangement, based on the Assurance of Stay scheme.
3. The visa application:
 - a. a concurrent migration application is not necessary;
 - b. a stay period of up to five years will be provided; and
 - c. a visa holder can apply to renew their visa for further periods of up to five years at a time.