



# Young people on special category (444) visas

## ENTITLEMENTS AND REFERRAL PATHWAY OPTIONS

This information sheet is for frontline staff working with young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds that have migrated to Australia on a Special Category (subclass 444) visa. This includes a large number of young people from Pasifika backgrounds.

This information sheet is designed to provide workers with insight into the additional challenges young people residing in Australia on a 444 visa may face as a result of their visa status, as well as their entitlements and the referral options available to them. This visa category includes a large number of young people from Maori and Pacific Islander backgrounds.

## Introduction

The Special Category (subclass 444) visa is a temporary visa that allows a New Zealand citizen to remain indefinitely and live, work or study in Australia. As the 444 visa is not a permanent visa, visa holders do not have the same rights and benefits as Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents.

Consequently, young people living in Australia on a 444 visa, and their families, are not eligible for a range of services and supports including many social security benefits. This has the potential to make them more vulnerable to experiences of disadvantage and exclusion.

CMY is aware from our work across Victoria that young people on 444 visas are more likely to face financial hardship and experience barriers to engagement in education and employment. As a result, many also face increased risk of family breakdown, homelessness and social isolation.

The Centre for Multicultural Youth is a Victorian not-for-profit organisation supporting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to build better lives in Australia.

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## Visa types

### ***Special Category Visa (SCV or subclass 444)***<sup>1</sup>

Introduced in 1994, the 444 visa allows New Zealand citizens who have a valid New Zealand passport and meet health and character requirements to visit, study, stay and work in Australia indefinitely.<sup>2</sup>

There are two types of 444 visas – Protected and non-Protected. These different streams of the 444 subclass affect eligibility and entitlements of the visa holder.

#### **A Protected SCV holder (or Eligible New Zealand Citizen - ENZC) is a person who:**

- is a New Zealand citizen;
- holds a 444 visa;
- was in Australia on 26 February 2001;
- in Australia for 12 months in the two years immediately before this date; or
- was assessed as a protected SCV holder before 26 February 2004.

#### **A non-Protected SCV holder is a person who:**

- is a New Zealand citizen; and
- arrived in Australia after 26 February 2001; and
- holds a 444 visa.

While all 444 visa holders are eligible to remain in Australia indefinitely as long as they meet the eligibility criteria, non-Protected SCV holders must become permanent residents through the regular migration program before they are eligible to apply for Australian citizenship, to sponsor family members for a permanent visa and to be considered an Australian resident for social security purposes (i.e. to access the full range of social security benefits and income support payments available to Australian citizens and permanent residents).<sup>3</sup>

### ***Protected SCV holder and non-Protected SCV holder***

Up until 2001, New Zealand citizens living in Australia were eligible to access benefits and supports similar to Australian citizens courtesy of a reciprocal agreement with the New Zealand Government for Australian citizens residing in New Zealand.

On 26 February 2001, a new bilateral social security arrangement between Australia and New Zealand was announced. This agreement brought in changes that recognise the right of each country to determine access to social security benefits and to set related residence and citizenship rules according to the respective country's national legislative and policy frameworks.

These changes resulted in a number of changes to Australian social security and migration legislation that now requires New Zealand citizens who arrive in Australia after 26 February 2001 to apply for and become a permanent visa holder in order to:

- access certain social security payments (including income support payments) that are not covered by the bilateral agreement (exceptions covered by the agreement include the age pension, disability support pension and carer payments);
- apply for Australian citizenship; and
- sponsor their family members for a permanent visa.

This legislation also introduced a new stream of 444 visa holders referred to as the Protected SCV holder or Eligible New Zealand Citizens (ENZC). The Protected SCV holder is not affected by the 26 February 2001 changes and continues to meet the definition of an Australian resident for the purpose of the Social Security Act. They can also sponsor family members for an Australian permanent visa and apply for citizenship without first being granted permanent residence.<sup>4</sup>

## Who are the young people living in Victoria on a Special Category (subclass 444) visa?

According to the Department of Home Affairs, there were more than 646,830 New Zealand citizens in Australia on a 444 visa at 31 December 2016.<sup>5</sup> While there has been a gradual increase over the last ten years in the number of 444 visa holders in Australia, unfortunately there is little information publicly available from which we can gather a more detailed picture of the community of 444 visa holders living long-term in Victoria and their demographic characteristics. What we do know is that a significant number of Maori and Pacific Islander families and young people enter Australia via New Zealand, with New Zealand citizenship.<sup>6</sup>

There are also young people living in Australia on SCV 444, who are New Zealand citizens that weren't born in New Zealand, or have any Pasifika ancestry. Entry to Australia via the SCV 444 has increasingly become a pathway for migrants and refugees of various African backgrounds.

In Australia, the term Pasifika is used to take in people from Maori and Pacific Islander backgrounds.<sup>7</sup> Australia's Pasifika population are recognised as those people identifying with ancestries from across the Melanesian, Polynesian and Micronesian grouping of South Pacific Island states and territories, including the Maori – the indigenous people of New Zealand – and those who identify as Hawaiian.<sup>8</sup> The Pasifika community in Australia is a rapidly growing and youthful population.<sup>9</sup> In 2007, it was estimated that 0.6% of the Victorian population was of Pacific Island and Maori backgrounds.<sup>10</sup> According to 2016 Census data, this population has increased to 0.8% over the last ten years, and sits at almost 1.5% among Victoria's youth population (that is, those aged 12 to 24 years).<sup>11</sup> The largest groups of young people with Pasifika backgrounds are from Samoan, Maori, Tongan, Fijian and Cook Islander backgrounds.

2016 Census<sup>12</sup> data also allows us to look at the number of New Zealand-born young people living in Victoria by their Australian citizenship status and self-reported ancestry – see Tables 1 and 2. This gives us some insight into who the young 444 visa holders in Victoria might be. From these tables, we can see that one-third of the New Zealand-born youth population living in Victoria identify with Pasifika ancestry, with largest groups from Samoan, Maori, Tongan and Cook Islander backgrounds.<sup>13</sup>

**Table 1: Australian citizenship status by Top 10 ancestries for New Zealand-born young people (aged 12 to 24 years) living in Victoria<sup>14</sup>**

Ancestry	Australian citizen		Not Australian citizen		Not stated		Total
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
English	928	20%	3,602	78%	97	2%	4,622
Samoan	257	17%	1,230	81%	32	2%	1,511
Maori	75	6%	1,185	93%	18	1%	1,281
New Zealander	202	16%	1,047	82%	26	2%	1,271
Chinese	414	47%	459	52%	9	1%	883
Irish	118	23%	382	75%	4	1%	508
Scottish	109	24%	345	75%	13	3%	460
Tongan	67	19%	274	78%	9	3%	350
Indian	184	40%	272	59%	13	3%	461
Cook Islander	21	8%	227	89%	4	2%	255
<b>Total of all New Zealand-born youth</b>	<b>3,590</b>		<b>11,003</b>		<b>357</b>		<b>14,950</b>

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Oceanian, nfd	14	11%	108	82%	4	3%	131
Niuean	5	9%	52	90%	0	0%	58
Fijian	20	38%	32	60%	0	0%	53
Tuvaluan	0	0%	18	100%	0	0%	18
Polynesian, nfd	10	36%	17	61%	0	0%	28
I-Kiribati	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	5
Tokelauan	0	0%	5	125%	0	0%	4
Tahitian	3	50%	3	50%	0	0%	6
Inadequately described	9	53%	15	88%	0	0%	17
Not stated	64	16%	266	66%	75	19%	401
<b>Total New Zealand born youth with Pasifika ancestry</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>4,203</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>4,971</b>
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## Migration and citizenship pathways

Large numbers of people from Pasifika backgrounds are believed to have migrated to Australia over the last 50 years via New Zealand, with a large proportion of Australia's New Zealand population of Polynesian descent but obscured in statistical data under "New Zealander".<sup>16</sup> Historically, New Zealand has had much higher rates of Pacific Islander permanent settlement and citizenship conferral than Australia.<sup>17</sup> This has been attributed to a range of factors, including New Zealand's more liberal migration policies for Pacific migrants, quotas for selected countries and family reunion policies. However, a 2012 paper jointly published by the governments of Australia and New Zealand recognised that New Zealand's policies have also "boosted growth in Australia's Pacific-born populations through trans-Tasman migration".<sup>18</sup>

Many people from Pasifika backgrounds who migrated to Australia during the 1970's and 1980's benefited from much simpler citizenship and residency processes, especially if they had already obtained New Zealand citizenship prior to arrival in Australia. As such, this earlier cohort is more likely to have attained Australian citizenship than Pasifika communities migrating to Australia today.<sup>19</sup> Changes to Australian permanent residency and citizenship processes, and access to social security for New Zealand citizens, are factors believed to be influencing this trend in take up of Australian citizenship. What this current trend suggests is that many more newly-arrived Pasifika families and young people on 444 visas are growing up in Australia, and potentially living out their lives in Australia, without ever gaining permanent residency or citizenship, or the range of rights that come with this.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Overview of changes to Australian citizenship***

- People born in Australia on or after 26 January 1949 and before 20 August 1986 became an Australian citizen by birth;
- A person born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986 and before 1 September 1994 is only an Australian citizen by birth if at least one of their parents was an Australian citizen or permanent resident at the time of their birth (with the exception of 'exempt non-citizens');
- A child born in Australia between 1 September 1994 and 26 February 2001, to a New Zealand citizen parent who held an SCV or a permanent visa, is an Australian citizen by birth;
- A child born in Australia on or after 27 February 2001 to a New Zealand citizen parent is not an Australian citizen by birth unless the New Zealand citizen parent:
  - » held an Australian permanent visa
  - » was a dual Australian-New Zealand citizen
  - » was covered by the transitional arrangements for the 26 February 2001 changes;
- A child born in Australia on or after 20 August 1986 who did not acquire Australian citizenship at birth automatically acquires it on their 10th birthday if they have been residing in Australia since their birth – regardless of parents' immigration or citizenship status.
- On 1 July 2017, a new stream under the permanent Skilled Independent (subclass 189) visa commenced for New Zealand citizens. If granted this visa, then New Zealand citizens are eligible to apply for Australian citizenship after a period of 12 months.<sup>21</sup>

## Entitlements<sup>22</sup>

	Non-Protected SCV	Protected SCV
<b>Permanent residency</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	While all 444 visa holders can live in Australia indefinitely the <a href="#">444 visa is a temporary visa</a> . 444 visa holders are eligible to apply for permanent visas under Australia's regular migration program but must meet relevant visa eligibility criteria.	
<b>Apply for Australian citizenship</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	All 444 visa holders are entitled to apply for Australian citizenship if they meet the eligibility criteria. While all non-Protected 444 visa holders must first become permanent residents before being eligible to apply for Australian citizenship, some Protected 444 visa holders and their children are considered permanent residents for the purposes of <a href="#">eligibility for Australian citizenship</a> .	
<b>Sponsor family and other relatives for permanent residence</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	All non-Protected 444 visa holders must first become permanent residents before being eligible to <a href="#">sponsor family and other relatives for permanent residence</a> . Protected 444 visa holders can sponsor family and other relatives for permanent residence.	
<b>Travel to and from Australia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	The <a href="#">444 visa is a temporary visa</a> that ends when the visa holder leaves the country and is re-issued upon return to Australia (provided visa criteria are met).	
<b>Work in Australia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Study in Australia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Compulsory schooling	New Zealand citizens are regarded as local students and therefore are <a href="#">entitled to free public schooling</a> in all states and territories.	
Post-compulsory schooling	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<p><b>University</b></p> <p>New Zealand citizens, who are resident within Australia during their course of study, are <a href="#">eligible to access subsidised higher education places</a>, known as Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP).</p> <p><b>Vocational education and training</b></p> <p>New Zealand citizens have <a href="#">access to government-subsidised places</a> in some states and territories.</p>	
<b>Student loans</b>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>Limited</b>
	<p>In most cases, New Zealand citizens are not eligible to access any <a href="#">Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)</a> or <a href="#">VET Student Loans</a>.</p> <p>However, some New Zealand citizens became eligible for the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) from <a href="#">1 January 2016</a> and VET Student Loans from <a href="#">1 January 2017</a> providing they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hold a 444 visa (Protected or non-Protected SVC); and</li> <li>• first entered Australia as a dependent minor aged under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>• have been ordinarily resident in Australia for the previous ten years (that is, physically present in Australia for at least eight out of the past ten years) and for 18 months of the last two years at the time of application; and</li> <li>• meet other HELP and VET Loan eligibility criteria.<sup>23</sup></li> <li>• For information on access to student income support – see Centrelink Benefits.</li> </ul>	

	Non-Protected SCV	Protected SCV
<b>Health Care</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Medicare	<p>New Zealand citizens who live in Australia are covered under the definition of “Australian resident” included in the <a href="#">Health Insurance Act 1973</a>. This entitles them to a range of medical services for free or at a lower cost, including Medicare, public hospitals and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).<sup>24</sup></p> <p>To attain a Medicare card if you’re a New Zealand citizen you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have lived in Australia for six months or more, in the last 12 months (this can be all at once or in separate visits); and</li> <li>• intend to stay in Australia for six months or more, in the next 12 months (this can be all at once or in separate visits); or</li> <li>• be living in Australia and have applied for permanent residency.</li> </ul>	
NDIS	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	To access the NDIS, a person must be an Australian citizen, hold a permanent visa or be a protected SCV (444) holder.	
<b>Settlement Supports and Services</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
	Includes: <a href="#">Settlement Grants Program</a> , <a href="#">Humanitarian Settlement Program</a> , <a href="#">Complex Case Support Program</a>	
<b>Public Transport Concession</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
	<a href="#">Public Transport Victoria</a> currently considers the 444 as a temporary visa and therefore does not provide 444 visa holders the same concession rates as citizens and permanent residents. <sup>25</sup>	
<b>Free Interpreting Services</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<p>TIS services are available to all non-English speaking community members who wish to be in contact with government agencies and departments.</p> <p><i>The <a href="#">Free Interpreting Service</a> is limited to non-English speakers who are Australian citizens, permanent residents, Temporary Humanitarian Stay (subclass 449); Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786); Temporary Protection (subclass 785); and Safe Haven Enterprise (subclass 790) visa holders.</i><sup>26</sup></p>	
<b>Centrelink Benefits</b>	<b>Limited</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<p><a href="#">Generally</a>, Protected 444 visa holders are able to access most of the payments and benefits available to Australian citizens and permanent residents and non-protected 444 visa holders are not.<sup>27</sup></p> <p>Exceptions for non-Protected 444 visa holders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the disability support pension, age pension and carer payment (these payments covered under <a href="#">the bilateral agreement with New Zealand</a>)</li> <li>• child-related social security (such as newborn supplement, child care benefit, parental leave pay) and family tax benefits (this is subject to meeting <a href="#">eligibility for these payments and cards</a> plus the meeting of <a href="#">residence rules</a>), and</li> <li>• concession cards (subject to waiting periods)</li> <li>• a one off (single period) of payment up to six consecutive months of Newstart, Sickness or Youth Allowance (you must have been living in Australia continuously for at least 10 years and meet <a href="#">other eligibility and waiting periods</a>).<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>	
<b>Legal rights and support</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 444 visa holders are eligible for legal aid and support.</li> <li>• As a 444 visa holder if you’re convicted of a criminal offence or otherwise breach the Australia’s migration character provisions, the Department of Home Affairs has the power to cancel your visa.<sup>29</sup></li> </ul>	

## Issues and challenges

While young people demonstrate high levels of strength, resilience and resourcefulness, vulnerability and risk increase at transition points in adolescence and young adulthood. Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, particularly those newly-arrived, often face numerous and more profound transitions than their Australian-born counterparts, and have particular needs, including specific settlement needs that are different and distinct from those of adults.

In particular, young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds can face certain barriers to accessing services and opportunities. These barriers are often compounded by language and cultural differences, limited or lack of social capital, unfamiliarity with (complex) Australian systems and processes, and racism and discrimination, including structural/systemic discrimination.

Particular issues for Pasifika young people may include:

- Language difficulties (English is usually the second language at home).
- Discrimination and racism.
- Pressures unique to social and cultural circumstances, including family, church and community responsibilities and duties.
- Lack of Pasifika language resources in schools.
- Limited access to books, time and study space at home.
- Parents' unfamiliarity with Australian educational systems, curriculum and assessment.
- Challenges adapting to different education system, including dynamics of classroom discussion and debate, mismatch of teaching and learning styles.
- Low level of effective advocacy by parents.
- Lack of mentors.
- Differences in expectations around behaviour between home and school.<sup>30</sup>

Pasifika young peoples' status as a 444 visa holder can also present them with a number of additional challenges on top of those they may face as new arrivals settling in to life in Australia.

Most notably, 444 visa holders who arrived in Australia after 2001 are more likely to experience socio-economic disadvantage. This is a result of their more limited access to services and supports that facilitate their full and equal participation coupled with the fact that many Pasifika families have skills and experience that limit employment opportunities to lower-paid sectors, and that is highly casualised and seasonal.<sup>31</sup>

While economic wellbeing influences migrants' ability to integrate into their new country,<sup>32</sup> significant financial strain within the family may place additional pressures on young people on these visas. For example, young people might feel compelled to leave school early in order to contribute to household costs, even if for low wages and an insecure employment future. This potentially exposes them to a cycle of disadvantage. Socioeconomic disadvantage can also increase the risk of young people experiencing: family breakdown/ intergenerational conflict, homelessness, possible exploitation and/or disengagement from the wider community, leading to more serious issues. Indeed, family violence, high rates of engagement with the criminal justice system, early educational disengagement and poor employment outcomes are all identified issues impacting Pasifika young people, their families and communities in Victoria.



## Case study

### Samaria

Samaria is a 19-year-old woman of Tongan descent living in Wyndham Vale. Samaria and her family of eight moved to Sydney seven years ago from New Zealand. She attended high school in New South Wales. Samaria's family moved to Melbourne recently to be closer to her aunty and grandmother.

Samaria is now out of high school, and interested in further study. She wants to study youth work or a Bachelor of Human Services; she would also like to get a Masters in social work. Her end goal is to work in the community sector.

### Natia

Natia is a 23-year-old young woman also of Tongan descent living in Truganina. Natia's father and three older siblings arrived in Melbourne in 2000. Natia, her mother and her two siblings arrived in Melbourne in 2002.

Natia wants to be the first person in her family to graduate from University. She would like to study a Bachelor of Arts. Her brother, who arrived in 2000 is currently in university and has a HELP loan but Natia up until recent legislative change has been ineligible to attend university.

Upon finishing high school, both Samaria's and Natia's families fundraised money to help pay for them to take inexpensive TAFE courses. However, their families were not able to come up with the money to pay for them to continue on at university.

However, changes took place in January 2016 and January 2017, allowing many New Zealand citizens to become eligible for the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) and VET Student Loans that defer fees for eligible students. These changes in access to study loans mean that young people like Natia are now able to afford to undertake further study, without it being a financial burden on her and her family.

Unfortunately, Samaria is still not eligible for a student deferred loan despite the changes, as she does not meet the additional criteria required for New Zealand citizens. As a result, she has had to defer her dreams and aspirations of studying at university and is currently looking for work.

## Referral Pathway Options

Young people on 444 visas, and their families and communities, have more limited referral pathway options for services than Australian permanent residents and citizens. Alongside the eligibilities listed above, the following provides a general guide to the level of access and support young people on 444 visas should receive from services in Victoria.

### Crisis Housing

While young people on 444 visas are not ineligible to receive crisis housing support in Victoria they are generally not considered a priority group among services. This is partly due to their ineligibility for some government benefits and services, as well as a lack of awareness of their limited options when seeking medium- to long-term accommodation support.

#### For example:

- Reconnect (Newly Arrived Youth Specialists) is a specialist service that supports young people aged 12-21 years who have arrived in Australia in the previous five years and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This service has a focus on people entering Australia on humanitarian visas and family visas and typically does not work with young people who are on 444 visas.<sup>33</sup>
- Victorian Government Social Housing services (including public and community housing) provide more medium- to long-term housing options but are only available to Australian citizens and permanent residents.<sup>34</sup>

## ***Youth Mental Health Services***

Young people on 444 visas are eligible for Medicare and can access mainstream youth mental health services. In addition to an initial assessment, 444 visa holders can be referred on for any ongoing therapy that is covered by Medicare without incurring any cost. This includes referral to a private psychologist, mental health social worker, or mental health occupational therapist via a Mental Health Care Plan from their general practitioner, as well as Targeted Psychological Services and other parts of the public mental health system (e.g. CAMHS/CYMHS services, bed-based recovery services).

### **Crisis counselling and other support services (sexual assault, family violence and other matters)**

Most crisis services, such as WestCASA and InTouch, are able to support people on the 444 visa – as these services don't typically require clients to provide evidence of residency or visa status prior to receiving a service.

## ***Employment and Training services***

In addition to post-compulsory education and training offered through the university and TAFE sectors, young people on 444 visas may be eligible to access government-subsidised training courses depending on the individual course requirements. Generally, 444 visa holders are eligible for government subsidised courses from Certificate 1 right through to a Diploma.

Furthermore, young people on 444 visas are not eligible to access free AMEP classes; however, they are eligible for subsidised training courses under Skills First in Victoria.

As 444 visa holders are not eligible for most income support benefits they are typically also ineligible for most government-funded employment services and supports. A key exception for young people on a 444 visa is the Transition to Work program, young 444 visa holders aged between 15 and 21 years can access this program provided they meet other eligibility criteria.<sup>35</sup>

## ***Legal and Support Services***

Young people who are 444 visa holders have the same access as young Australian citizens and permanent residents to legal services such as WestJustice and Youth Law in Victoria. These services provide assistance based on the type of legal case, vulnerability of the young person and severity of the criminal matter, rather than visa or migration status.<sup>36</sup>

## ***Multicultural Support Services for youth and families***

Most services of this nature will not exclude young people based on migration status, however these are typically generalist services and supports that do not provide a comprehensive service but instead undertake initial assessment, referral and follow up support.

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## Endnotes

- 1 Department of Home Affairs (2018) Special Category visa (subclass 444).
- 2 Prior to 1994, New Zealand citizens did not require a visa to live and stay in Australia.
- 3 Department of Human Services (2018) Special Category Visa Holder.
- 4 Australian Government (2018) Guide to Social Security Law, Version 1.243, Section 9.1.2.40 New Zealand Citizens: Department of Home Affairs (2018) New Zealand Citizens; Spinks & Klapdor (2016) New Zealanders in Australia: a quick guide (last updated August 2016)
- 5 Department of Home Affairs (2017) Temporary entrants in Australia: At 31 December 2016, p. 20
- 6 For more on the growing Pacific Islander community in Australia and issues related to capturing their numbers, see Rose, Quanchi & Moore (2009) A national strategy for the study of the Pacific, pp. 109-110
- 7 The United Pasifika Communities of Victoria (UPCOV) use the word 'Pasifika' to include Maori and Pacific Islanders. Communities involved in this organisation are: Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue, Maori, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Fiji. 'Pasifika' is used by UPCOV rather than 'Pacific Islander' as it includes the Maori community. Rose, Quanchi & Moore (2009), p.109
- 8 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2011 cited in Ravulo (2015) Pacific Communities in Australia, p. 4
- 9 Ravulo (2015), p. 11
- 10 CMY (2008) Pacific Youth Voices.
- 11 ABS (2018) Census of Population and Housing 2016.
- 12 ABS (2018). (2016 Census - Count of Persons, Place of Usual Residence: AGEP Age [12-24 years] by ANCI1P - 4 Digit Level [Oceanian, excl. Australian Peoples] by CITP Australian Citizenship by STATE (UR) [Victoria] and BPLP - 2 Digit Level [New Zealand])
- 13 As noted above, the lack of detailed data on 444 visa holders makes it difficult to paint a precise picture of this cohort.
- 14 ABS (2018). See also, ABS (2016) 2901.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Census Dictionary, 2016.
- 15 Note: None of the following were reported as the main (first, ANCP1) ancestry for New Zealand born young people living in Victoria at the 2016 Census: New Zealand Peoples, nfd, Melanesian and Papuan, nfd, New Caledonian, Ni-Vanuatu, Papua New Guinean, Solomon Islander, Melanesian and Papuan, nec, Micronesian, nfd, Nauruan, Micronesian, nec, Hawaiian, Pitcairn, Polynesian, nec.
- 16 Rose, Quanchi & Moore (2009), p. 110
- 17 One estimate from 2008 suggests that around 20 per cent of Australia's Pasifika population entered Australia as New Zealand citizens. Bedford & Hugo (2012) Population Movement in the Pacific: A Perspective on Future Prospects. Department of Labour, Government of New Zealand: Wellington, p. 57
- 18 Bedford & Hugo (2012), pp. 54-55
- 19 Ravulo (2015), p. 11

- 20** A review of 2016 Census data reveals that of the “146,000 New Zealand-born migrants who arrived in Australia between 2002 and 2011, only 8.4% had acquired Australian citizenship by 2016. As a subset of this, New Zealand-born Māori are particularly disadvantaged, with a take-up rate of just under 3%.” This compares to a take-up rate of almost 50% of the New Zealand-born people arriving in Australia between 1985 and 2000. Hamer & Markus (2017) Australian Census data shows collapse in citizenship uptake by New Zealanders. *The Conversation*, 23 August 2017.
- 21** Department of Home Affairs (2018) Fact sheet – New Zealanders in Australia; Department of Home Affairs (2018) New Zealand citizens living in Australia; Department of Home Affairs (2018) Special Category visa (subclass 444).
- 22** A broad guide to entitlements for New Zealand citizens living in Australia can be found in Spinks & Klapdor (2016).
- 23** Further notes:
- » New Zealand citizens not on an SCV are ineligible for HELP unless they become Australian citizens;
  - » Current legislation regarding access to HELP for New Zealand citizens came in under [2015 amendments](#) to the Higher Education Support Act 2003;
  - » [The Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment \(A More Sustainable, Responsive and Transparent Higher Education System\) Bill 2017](#) is currently before the Senate. This Bill would remove access to Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) for Australian permanent residents and New Zealand (NZ) citizens, making them fee-paying students, and grant them access to income-contingent loans (similar to FEE-HELP). At the time of publication this bill had yet to be passed by the Senate.)
- 24** Spinks & Klapdor (2016).
- 25** Concessions are typically subject to persons being a permanent Victorian resident, which is defined by PTV as “a person who lives at a Victorian address and is an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia.” Public Transport Victoria (PTV) (2018) Victorian Fares and Ticketing Manual, p. 182. While 444 visa holders are not eligible for student concessions they may be eligible to purchase a discounted annual myki Pass from their tertiary institution similar to full-time international students. PTV (2018), p. 16
- 26** Non-English speakers can access TIS (the translating and interpreting services) when engaging with state and federal government departments, local councils, medical and health practitioners, pharmacies, utility companies, telecommunication companies, emergency services, legal services, settlement and community service providers, and real estate agencies. However, restrictions apply to the free interpreting service TIS offer on behalf of DSS – for example, private medical practitioners and pharmacies are eligible to access the Free Interpreting Service to assist in communicating with non-English speakers who have a Medicare card when providing Medicare-rebateable services. See Department of Home Affairs (2018) About the Free Interpreting Service.
- 27** See also, Australian Government (2018)
- 28** Some allowances and benefits have additional residency-related requirements (e.g. waiting periods).
- 29** The 2014 Migration Amendment Bill inserts a new mandatory ground for the cancellation of a visa without notice under section 501 of the Migration Act where: the person is serving a full-time sentence of imprisonment for an offence against the law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory; and the Minister is satisfied that the person has a substantial criminal record (and so does not pass the character test) because they have been sentenced to death, sentenced to imprisonment for life, or sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 12 months or more. Parliament of Australia (2014) Migration Amendment (Character and General Visa Cancellation) Bill 2014, Explanatory Memorandum.

- 30** CMY (unpublished) Victorian Pasifika Youth and Communities Working Group Report (2013).
- 31** Chenoweth (2014) Pacific Islanders and education: is Australia an 'unlucky country'?.  
The Conversation, 10 February 2014.
- 32** Carrington, McIntosh & Walmsley (2007) The social costs and benefits of migration into Australia.
- 33** Department of Social Services (2018) Reconnect.
- 34** Department of Human Services (2018) Social Housing.
- 35** Department of Employment (2018) Youth, Transition to Work.
- 36** If the legal service is unable to support them they will refer a young person on to the appropriate organisation. If anything, 444 visa holders have more of a chance to get support as they're likely to be more vulnerable.