Policy Document

Australia's immigration rate has spiralled out of control, with successive poor policy leading to a poorly balanced approach. Australia needs a system that allows sustainable immigration - one in which creates a prosperous economy.

Australia's immigration policies need reform. While immigration has played a crucial role in our nation's history, our current approach is not delivering broad benefits to all Australians. As an Independent Candidate for Dunkley, I believe in a practical and fair immigration system that prioritizes national interests while upholding humanitarian responsibilities.

Guiding Principles

- Immigration has historically contributed to Australia's growth, but in today's context, it should be managed carefully to ensure sustainable development.
- Australia is no longer a small, developing country; we are a middle-sized nation with significant urban congestion, housing shortages, and infrastructure challenges.
- High immigration rates do not necessarily equate to increased prosperity; instead, they often contribute to declining per capita wealth and productivity.
- Immigration policies should be designed to fill genuine skill shortages and support national economic growth—not simply to boost domestic demand or provide cheap labor.
- Refugee policies should focus on offering safe haven to those in need, but this does not imply an automatic right to citizenship or permanent residency.

Policy Commitments

Reforming Immigration Policy

- **Temporary Moratorium on Immigration:** Introduce a pause on new immigration until infrastructure, housing, education, and social services catch up with population demands.
- **Prioritizing Skilled Migration:** Refocus immigration on emerging industries and critical skill shortages, rather than sectors that rely on low-wage, unskilled labor.
- **Strengthening Workforce Development:** Reduce reliance on skilled migration by investing in vocational education and training for Australian workers, ensuring employers contribute to skill development.

Addressing Refugee and Asylum Policies

- **Safe Haven, Not Automatic Settlement:** Australia will provide temporary refuge to displaced persons, with an emphasis on eventual resettlement in their home country or another willing nation.
- **Temporary Protection Visas:** Introduce renewable two-year Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) for asylum seekers until conditions allow for their safe return.
- **Community-Based Detention Alternatives:** Allow churches, civil society, and businesses to sponsor asylum seekers, covering their housing, healthcare, and welfare needs while they await processing.
- **Close Costly Offshore Detention Centers:** Replace inefficient detention facilities with more effective and humane community-based processing.

Enhancing Social Cohesion

- **Balanced Educational Integration:** Implement a cap ensuring no more than 30% of students in any public school come from non-English-speaking backgrounds to support effective language development.
- **Neighborhood Cohesion Program:** Offer matched grants of up to $1,000 for community-driven initiatives fostering cultural and social integration.
- **English Language Support:** Expand intensive English language programs in schools and introduce a large-scale community-based language fluency initiative pairing native and non-native speakers.
- **Regulating Overseas Student Pathways:** Require international students to return to their home countries for a minimum of three years before being eligible for work or residency applications in Australia.

Conclusion

Australia must adopt a pragmatic and sustainable approach to immigration—one that balances economic needs, national security, and social cohesion while fulfilling humanitarian obligations responsibly. By implementing these reforms, we can ensure that immigration and refugee policies work in the best interest of all Australians.