

To Whom it may concern.

As a worker in the aluminium joinery Industry I work with 8 Filipino coworkers. These people are excellent workers, great friends and all round good people. They came to New Zealand to build a better life for themselves and support their families back home. Our boss treats them very well and provides them with nice homes to live in. Without them our company could not function. Unfortunately, since they are not earning double the median wage, which is not possible in our industry, the government has deemed them unworthy of becoming New Zealand citizens.

Why?

They are already here, they pay their taxes and cause no problems for our society. They work harder than any New Zealander in our company. Almost every cent they earn they send home to their families. Again how does separating workers from their families benefit New Zealand? The money they send home could be spent here if their families were allowed to live here with them.

I myself have a Filipina fiancée, currently we are trapped apart, I cannot enter her country and she cannot enter here. She is a qualified nurse and wants to work in the aged care industry, an industry screaming out for workers. I have a house for her to live in, a stable job and the money to pay for her to come here, quarantine and study for a degree in aged care. yet due to the draconian "living together" partnership rules am powerless to get her into the country.

Please I implore you, reconsider this anti immigration course the government is taking. It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. all sectors of our economy are struggling to fill vacancies because we have a tiny population. We need to encourage free flow of people goods and ideas and not turn New Zealand into a fortress, breaking up families and causing untold misery on people being denied the right to be together.

Thanks for your time.