How law and policy create barriers to inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum

Dr Sangeetha Pillai
Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW
Temporary residents
Permanent residents
Australian citizens
The object of the *Migration Act* is to...
regulate, in the national interest, the coming into, and presence in, Australia of non-citizens’

Australian citizenship represents full and formal membership of the community of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Australian citizenship is a common bond, involving reciprocal rights and obligations, uniting all Australians, while respecting their diversity.
Moves to make full membership of the Australian community

- More difficult to obtain
- More easy to lose
More difficult to obtain

- Delays in citizenship processing
- Bill put before the last Parliament sought to...
  - Dramatically increase the time a person must hold permanent residency before citizenship
  - Introduce a dedicated English language test and increase the required English threshold
- Temporary protection visas slow (or stop) pathway to permanent residency
- Fast track cohort
More easy to lose

Since 2015 legislation has enabled dual citizens to be stripped of their Australian citizenship on specified national security grounds.

Bill currently before Parliament seeks to...

Risk of de facto statelessness

Arguably weaken protections against statelessness

Broaden some of the grounds for citizenship stripping

Arguably weaken protections against statelessness
Sole Australian Citizenship

Dual citizenship

Permanent residency with practical capacity to acquire citizenship

Permanent residency without practical capacity to acquire citizenship

Temporary residency with short pathway to permanent residency

Temporary residency with long pathway to permanent residency

Secure status

Less secure

Ongoing scrutiny

English threshold

Min time periods vary greatly

Ongoing scrutiny