

INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Te Tari Taiwhenua

Passports' Policy for Change in Gender Identity and Transgender Applicants

9(2)(a)

Operations Manager
New Zealand Passports

Current Policy – Change in Gender Identity

- Applicants who want their passport to reflect a change in their gender identity must first apply to the New Zealand Family Court for a declaration that recognises the nominated gender
- Issues:
 - The nature of the family court process can be complex and applicants may require legal representation or advice
 - For practical reasons, there is a different process for people residing outside New Zealand, and often other jurisdictions' processes are more relaxed
 - We are creating difficulties for New Zealanders who are dual nationals (i.e. their UK passport already reflects another gender)

Current Policy – Transgender

- Applicants unable to obtain a Family Court declaration may have the gender displayed in their passport as 'X'.
- Issues:
 - Passport holders with gender 'X' displayed in their passport can encounter difficulties at border control (in some countries).

Future Policy ...

- We are aware of the recent policy changes in Australia
- The Department of Internal Affairs is also currently reviewing its policies regarding the issuance of passports where there is a change in gender identity.
- We are at the point of consulting with the community in order to develop the new policy
- Our current thinking is that applicants would provide a witnessed Statutory Declaration with their application, outlining their circumstances, and advising of the gender identity they wish to be displayed in the passport.

Questions and feedback

- Please feel free to email with any further feedback:

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