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16 January 2025

Honourable Brooke van Velden
Minister of Internal Affairs
Building 2, 12-16 Nicholls Lane
Parnell
AUCKLAND

c/o-Colton
Life and Identity Services Officer
(**VIA E-MAIL**: citizenship@dia.govt.nz)

Dear Honourable Minister,

RE: Further Submission for Request for Ministerial Waiver or Ministerial Discretion for Grant of New Zealand Citizenship to Miss [redacted] Daughter of Ms Keisha Maree Castle aka Keisha Castle-Hughes; Quote: [redacted]

A. Introduction

We continue to act for Ms Keisha Maree Castle *aka Keisha Castle-Hughes* ('Ms Castle-Hughes') and her daughter Miss [redacted]

An application for citizenship by grant for [redacted] was submitted in December 2023.

On 3 January 2025, the Department of Internal Affairs ('DIA') wrote to Ms Castle-Hughes about [redacted] giving these three options:

- Option 1: Withdraw [redacted] Application;
- Option 2A: Continue [redacted] Application as a Child of a Citizen by Descent; or
- Option 2B: Continue [redacted] Application as a case of public interest due to exceptional circumstances

B. Our Response

On Ms Castle-Hughes and [redacted] behalf, we would like to proceed with Option 2A: Continue [redacted] Application as a Child of a Citizen by Descent.

In the correspondence dated 3 January 2025 from the DIA, the DIA states:

> *"The Minister may grant citizenship to a child of a citizen by descent. When considering applicants under this provision, the Minister considers their ability to fulfil the standard requirements for a grant of citizenship, and why they are unable to fulfil particular requirements.*
>
> *The Minister may also take into account:*
> - *whether your child can demonstrate a link to New Zealand*
> - *whether your child has longstanding family/whakapapa tie to New Zealand*
> - *whether your child has family members living in New Zealand who are New Zealand citizens*

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- *the circumstances of how their parent who is a citizen by descent, became a citizen by descent*
- *why your child does not meet the standard requirements and may not be able to in the future*
- *why you want your child to have New Zealand citizenship, and*
- *any other factors you wish the Minister to consider.*

Evidence that you and your child have an ongoing link with New Zealand may include:
- *supporting letters from NZ relatives*
- *letters from NZ friends*
- *letters from NZ employers*
- *proof of property ownership in NZ*
- *ownership of a NZ business*
- *NZ family trusts*
- *NZ doctor's records*
- *enrolment in an NZ school*
- *NZ insurance policies*
- *qualifications from NZ courses*
- *NZ investments*
- *NZ bank statements.*

You may wish to provide any additional evidence you would like considered. I have noted you have already provided:
- *a letter explaining you and* [redacted] *circumstances*
- *letters of support from family, friends and people you work with*
- *a letter from Idesi Legal"*

We have already provided submissions as to why [redacted] deserves to be granted New Zealand citizenship in our previous submission. We briefly reinstate these points as follows:

- [redacted] mother, Ms Castle-Hughes, is an internationally renowned New Zealand and Maori actress who, in 2004, became the youngest person nominated for the Academy Award's distinguished category of Best Actress at the age of 13;
- Despite Ms Castle-Hughes being born in Australia, she moved to New Zealand at a very young age and was raised as per Maori traditions and customs. She has always presented herself as a New Zealander and a Maori on the world stage;
- Ms Castle-Hughes' pregnancy with [redacted] during COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible for her to return to New Zealand to give birth to [redacted] due to closed borders all over the world, her existing professional obligations in the US at that time, and her inability to return to the US to continue her professional obligations, had she departed the US;
- Ms Castle-Hughes intends to return to New Zealand after the completion of her current work obligations;
- Ms Castle-Hughes intends to bring [redacted] and her husband to New Zealand with her. It is her intention to raise [redacted] in New Zealand amidst her whanau's strong Maori heritage; and
- Ms Castle-Hughes has demonstrated an ongoing commitment and allegiance to New Zealand by her past and present contributions as an international actress on the world stage. She has strong intentions to instil in her daughter, [redacted] a strong sense of allegiance to her home country, as a New Zealander and as a Maori.

The above submissions and our previous submissions still stand.

To support these propositions, we **enclose** the following additional evidence:

- Ms Castle-Hughes' ANZ Private Account, showing her ongoing payments:

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-Home loan payment towards her home in Auckland;
-Regular pocket money for her eldest daughter, [redacted] who lives in Auckland;
-Regular payment for Ms [redacted] Au Pair from New Zealand. [redacted] is a New Zealander who is [redacted] live-in nanny in New York City. Ms Castle-Hughes' explanation to Counsel is as follows:

> [redacted] *is our Au Pair in NYC. She is a Kiwi and lives with us in NYC. It was really important to us that while I am working in NYC, we maintain* [redacted] *connection to our language, familiarity with accent and culture with her nanny being from NZ.* [redacted] *has basic Te Reo.*
>
> *Our previous Au Pair we brought in,* [redacted] *is of Maori descent. We obviously speak Maori at home."*

- Ms Castle Hughes' Signed Agreement to Purchase the residential property on [redacted] Auckland dated 13 July 2022, showing proof of property ownership in New Zealand;
- Ms Castle-Hughes' Life Insurance Agreement with AIA (New Zealand) dated 9 May 2024;
- Ms Castle-Hughes' Renewal of Motor Vehicles insurance policy for her two vehicles in New Zealand dated 1 December 2024 to 1 December 2025 with Gallagher, showing herself, her husband, and her daughter as drivers;
- Ms Castle-Hughes' Certificate of Currency for her Auckland property with Vero dated 4 July 2024;
- Ms Castle-Hughes' Home Insurance Policy of her Auckland property with Gallagher dated 12 July 2024;
- [redacted] New Zealand Medical Records;
- Letter from Hannah Marshall, Head of Scripted Development from South Pacific Pictures outlining the future New Zealand based projects between SPP and Ms Castle-Hughes;
- Letter from Whitney Steel, Ms Castle-Hughes' fellow Maori friend who is based in the USA about [redacted] exposure to Maori heritage, language, and culture by Ms Castle-Hughes;
- Letter from Gianna Te Kanawa, Ms Castle-Hughes' fellow Maori friend who is based in the USA about [redacted] exposure to Maori heritage, language, and culture by Ms Castle-Hughes;
- Letter from Gabriella Stewart, Ms Castle-Hughes' friend dated 6 January 2025;
- Letter from Jill Haraki, Ms Castle-Hughes' relative dated 9 January 2025;
- Letter from Kat Taylor, Ms Castle-Hughes' relative dated 13 January 2025;
- Letter from Shay Scott, Ms Castle-Hughes' neighbour for her Auckland property dated 3 January 2025; and
- Letter from Moana MacFater, Ms Castle-Hughes' friend dated 11 January 2025

The above evidence demonstrates Ms Castle-Hughes' commitment to New Zealand subsequent to the completion of her current work engagement. She owns [redacted] property in New Zealand. She owns two motor vehicles in New Zealand. Her life insurance policy was formed in New Zealand. She continues to take care of her eldest daughter financially. Her eldest daughter, [redacted] resides in New Zealand. Ms Castle-Hughes has a large whanau in New Zealand.

While [redacted] has to be overseas due to her age and dependence on her parents, Ms Castle-Hughes has raised her as a New Zealander and Maori. She speaks Maori with [redacted] at home. She has been choosing New Zealand/Maori Au Pairs as [redacted] nannies to familiarise her with New Zealand cultures.

For all intents and purposes, [redacted] is a New Zealander. It was only because of COVID-19 that her mother was not able to give birth to her in New Zealand. The manner she was raised shows that her mother intends for her to be a New Zealander. Ms Castle-Hughes' past and ongoing contributions to New Zealand would clearly demonstrate that granting New Zealand citizenship to [redacted] would not undermine her allegiance to New Zealand and her whanau's Maori heritage.

C. Conclusion

As submitted in our prior submission, Ms Castle-Hughes' contributions to New Zealand perfectly fit the circumstance '**where the parents might be undertaking work outside New Zealand in some other manner which exhibits an ongoing commitment to New Zealand'** which Parliament intended for Ministerial Discretion under section 9(1)(b) to be exercised.

[redacted] a daughter of Ms Castle-Hughes, is a deserving applicant for the Minister to exercise their discretion under Section 9(1)(b) Citizenship Act 1977 to grant her a New Zealand citizenship.

We submit that a Ministerial Discretion under section 9(1)(b) to grant [redacted] a New Zealand citizenship is wholly appropriate.

We look forward to a grant of New Zealand citizenship to [redacted] Should you require further information, please contact Idesi Legal.

Yours sincerely,
IDESI LEGAL LIMITED

Kamil Lakshman BA,DipCM,MBA,LLB
LAWYER Principal

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