

2 November, 2015

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Embargoed Until 00:01hr (GMT), Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015**

**NEW INDEX: NEW ZEALAND IS A MORE PROSPEROUS  
PLACE TO LIVE THAN AUSTRALIA**

- **New Zealand is the 4th most prosperous country in the world, compared to Australia which is ranked 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Australia leads the world when it comes to the quality of education while New Zealanders are some of the most generous people in the world**

New Zealand is the 4th most prosperous country in the world, according to the results of an international index, leaving its neighbour and rival Australia trailing in its wake in 7th position on the rankings. As recently as 2012, Australia ranked higher than New Zealand, but New Zealand has overtaken its neighbour.

The annual [Legatum Prosperity Index™](#) ranks 142 countries across eight categories: the Economy, Entrepreneurship & Opportunity; Governance; Education; Health; Safety & Security; Personal Freedom; and Social Capital.

The 2015 Index ([www.prosperity.com](http://www.prosperity.com)), published today by the Legatum Institute, an international think tank based in London, reveals that much of New Zealand's growth has come in the Economy sub-index, where it has gone from below average in the OECD in 2012, to being in the top 30% in 2015. Behind this improvement lies one of the highest employment rates in the developed world. Those amongst the country's poorest that are not in work has been halved since 2010.

The index reveals:

- New Zealanders are also a lot more optimistic about their economy than Australians. Just 29% of Australians think it is a good time to find a job, compared to 47% of Kiwis.
- New Zealand ranks 1<sup>st</sup> this year in the Social Capital sub-index. The country has some of the strongest social networks and levels of volunteering of any developed nation. 95% of New Zealanders said they could count on family and friends in a time of need, and 45% say they have recently volunteered.
- Australia still retains the edge over New Zealand in areas including Economy (12<sup>th</sup> v New Zealand's 14<sup>th</sup>), Entrepreneurship & Opportunity (14<sup>th</sup> v 17<sup>th</sup>), Education (1<sup>st</sup> v 6<sup>th</sup>), and Health (15<sup>th</sup> v 19<sup>th</sup>).
- The Kiwis do however have the edge on Social Capital (1<sup>st</sup> v Australia's 4<sup>th</sup>), Personal Freedom (2<sup>nd</sup> v 9<sup>th</sup>), Governance (2<sup>nd</sup> v 10<sup>th</sup>), and Safety & Security (11<sup>th</sup> v 15<sup>th</sup>).

The 5 most prosperous countries are:

1. Norway
2. Switzerland
3. Denmark
4. New Zealand
5. Sweden

The 5 least prosperous countries are:

1. Central Africa Republic
2. Afghanistan
3. Haiti
4. Chad
5. Burundi

Nathan Gamester, Programme Director at the Legatum Institute, said:

“The Prosperity Index is based on the idea that both wealth and wellbeing are important for national success. Both New Zealand and Australia have performed extremely well on the Index over the past seven years, always ranking in the top ten.

“However, more recently we have seen New Zealand shoot upwards to overtake Australia, driven by a transformation in its Economy performance, and improvement on already impressive Social Capital, Governance, and Personal Freedom ranks. Whilst 2015 sees New Zealand further ahead of Australia, to solidify and extend its lead, it needs to turn its attention to the areas where Australia has the edge, be it Entrepreneurship & Opportunity, Health, or Education.”

To access the full report, data, and analysis, visit [www.prosperity.com](http://www.prosperity.com).

**ENDS**

### **Media Enquiries**

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:  
Nick Faith on +44 (0) 7960 996 233 or [nick@westminsterpolicy.com](mailto:nick@westminsterpolicy.com)

### **About the Legatum Institute**

The Legatum Institute seeks to identify the drivers of prosperity, which we define as both wealth and wellbeing. Our signature product is the *Legatum Prosperity Index™*, a unique global assessment of national prosperity that assesses 142 countries and is an essential tool for governments across the globe. For more information please go to [www.li.com](http://www.li.com) and [www.prosperity.com](http://www.prosperity.com).