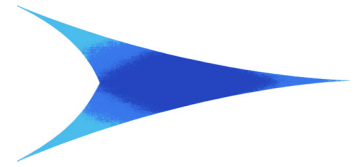


# The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community  
[www.southern-cross-group.org](http://www.southern-cross-group.org)



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australians in Canada – You Count as Well

This week, the Australian Bureau of Statistics counted everyone in Australia.

But the 2006 Australian Census won't take into account Australia's sizable diaspora of approximately one million people.

More than 50,000 Australians are estimated to be living permanently in Canada, and thousands more visit as tourists or work and study in Canada for short periods.

While Canada has been reaching out to Canadians in Australia and other countries and gave them an opportunity to vote in the recent Canadian election by special ballot, by contrast Australia is only now coming to understand that it is not just a nation of immigration, but also a nation of emigration.

Australians in Canada are a diverse group of all ages. Canada and Australia share similar industries, work opportunities, political and economic systems and especially attitudes, making Canada an appealing destination for all Australians. The strong Canadian economy over the last few years has offered particularly good opportunities for Australians both professional and blue collar. Many Australians have adopted Canada as their temporary or permanent home for educational, professional or personal reasons, or perhaps because they've fallen in love with Canadian culture, environment and the lifestyle.

Since 1975 Australia and Canada have been party to a special "working holiday visa" arrangement which allows young Australians up to the age of 30 to spend up to twelve months in Canada on a special visa, and vice versa. Canada presently limits the number of these visas for Australians to 7,500 per year and the annual quota has always been quickly filled, some years within the first 2-3 months of the year.

Finding all of Australia's unofficial ambassadors currently spread throughout Canada would be an impossible task. But those that can be reached online, via the media, through various Australian expatriate organisations, and through their families and friends are being strongly encouraged to participate in a new independent non-governmental online survey of the Australian diaspora.

Launched today to coincide with the day of the official Australian Census, and an initiative of the New York-based organisation **Advance** working in partnership with the **Southern Cross Group**, **One Million More – the Census of Australians Abroad** is aiming to achieve participation levels greater than any previous surveys of overseas Australians. A global hunt is on to track down as many as possible of the "missing million".

Taking approximately 20 minutes to complete on an entirely anonymous basis, the **One Million More** survey asks Australia's far-flung citizens, former citizens and others overseas with a very close family connection to the country to respond to some key questions adapted from the official Australian Census. It also includes specific questions designed to get to the heart of the experiences and issues faced by those living outside Australia.

Vancouver-based Southern Cross Group volunteer Brett Rueff said "Canada offers Australians some wonderful opportunities and it's no wonder that so many Australians are to be found here. We hope that **One Million More** will enable us to collect up-to-date, extensive and specific data about them. The data will be an indispensable tool going forward for all those concerned with developing and fostering Australia's relationship with its extensive diaspora." Mr Rueff is an Australian who has been living permanently in Canada for 3 years.

The data collected will be used in further academic research to be undertaken at Adelaide University by Professor Graeme Hugo, already widely known for his pioneering studies of the Australian diaspora. In addition, the Southern Cross Group will draw on the survey findings to guide its ongoing advocacy and support efforts and inform its continuing dialogue with the Australian government on diaspora issues. All survey results and conclusions will be published on the internet as they become available.

"We ask everyone who knows an Australian in Canada to let them know about **One Million More** and urge them to take part. Every single one of them is an integral part of Australia." Mr Rueff said.

**One Million More – the Census of Australians Abroad** opened on Tuesday 8 August 2006 and will remain online until Saturday 30 September 2006.

<http://www.onemillionmore.com/>

For additional information on **One Million More**, go to <http://www.southern-cross-group.org/census.html>

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### **About the Southern Cross Group**

The Southern Cross Group is an international non-profit volunteer-run and independently-funded advocacy and support organisation for the Australian diaspora. The SCG takes an inclusive approach in defining the Australian overseas community and works on behalf of everyone in that community, regardless of their age, educational background, occupation, professional status or income. Those who are not technically Australian citizens but who are former citizens or future citizens or otherwise have a very close family connection with Australia are also within the SCG's constituency. Since its formation in early 2000, the SCG has established a consistent track record of intelligent and timely submissions to Government on a host of Australian expatriate issues, taking the lead in establishing "the Australian diaspora" firmly in Australian domestic consciousness. The Group is best known for its work in reforming Australian citizenship law. It has also been active on the issue of expatriate disenfranchisement in the Australian electoral process, and was the driving force behind the establishment of a broad-based dedicated Federal Senate Committee Inquiry into Australian expatriates held in 2003-2005. The SCG is run by 100 volunteers in 30 countries. It has no formal members or membership fees. People interested in keeping abreast of the SCG's activities are invited to [sign up to its occasional free e-bulletins](#).

<http://www.southern-cross-group.org>

### **About Advance**

**Advance** is a community of Australian professionals overseas headquartered in New York City, with established chapters in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington DC and London with several others in formation around the globe. **Advance** recognises the importance of maintaining connection with the one million Australians in our diaspora making their mark in boardrooms, science laboratories, arts institutions, classrooms and communities worldwide. We provide online and live services and events in major industry sectors, enabling Australians abroad to be informed ambassadors-at-large who open doors and opportunities for Australia and Australians across the globe. **Advance** is an independent not-for-profit and registered charity in the United States.

<http://www.advance.org/>