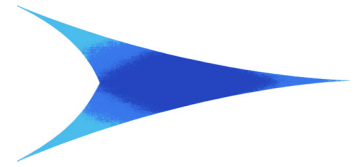


The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community
www.southern-cross-group.org



MEDIA RELEASE

Australians in Holland – You Count as Well!

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

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

More than 10,000 Australians are estimated to live in the Netherlands.

Australians in the Netherlands are a diverse group of all ages. Some migrated to Australia post-World War II and then returned to live in the Netherlands later in life. Others who were born in Australia to Dutch migrants and grew up Down Under have now come to the Netherlands to live and work in the country of their parents' birth. And other Australians, without a Dutch family connection, have adopted the Netherlands as their temporary or permanent home for educational, professional or personal reasons.

Since 1981 Australia and the Netherlands 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 the Netherlands on a special visa, and vice versa.

Finding all of Australia's unofficial ambassadors currently spread throughout the Netherlands 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 30 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.

Lawyer and SCG Co-founder Anne MacGregor, said "The Netherlands 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."

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 the Netherlands 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." Ms MacGregor said.

One Million More – the Census of Australians Abroad was launched 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/>