

The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



Senator the Hon Amanda Vanstone
Minister for Family and Community Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

27 November 2001

Dear Senator Vanstone,

We write to acknowledge receipt of your letter to The Southern Cross Group dated 2 November 2001, in which you reaffirmed the Coalition's commitment to extending Australia's network of bilateral social security agreements. Your letter was posted on our website for the information of SCG members as soon as it was received.

As you will probably be aware, The Southern Cross Group is an international non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to representing the interests of Australians overseas. Our membership includes Australians in many countries and we have a broad network of contacts with many Australian expatriate groups around the world. As well as working towards further bilateral social security agreements, we have been active on dual citizenship, the rights of non-EU nationals in the EU, and most recently, the right to vote in Australia for Australian citizens living overseas.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the concerns of Australian expatriates as they touch on your portfolio in more detail, and to provide you with a better understanding of the work of our organisation. We will both be in Canberra during December, and wonder if a meeting could be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

Anne MacGregor will be available in Canberra from Wednesday 5 December to Friday 14 December. During that time she can be reached at 02 6247 6952 or 0419 232 016 or by e-mail at anne@southern-cross-group.org. In addition, both the undersigned will be in Canberra on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 December. John Russell may be reached in Belgium until Friday 14 December at the address below or by e-mail at john@southern-cross-group.org.

We hope that there will be an opportunity for a meeting with you and look forward to a constructive dialogue with you and your Department during the term of the new Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Anne MacGregor / John Russell
SCG Co-founders
Washington DC and Brussels