

Dual Citizenship Rights

In February 1999 the Australian Citizenship Council put out an Issues Paper entitled *Contemporary Australian Citizenship*.

The Citizenship Council raised the question of whether Australian Citizens should continue to lose their Australian Citizenship on applying for and receiving the Citizenship of another country.

Under the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*, any adult Australian Citizen who applies for, and acquires, the Citizenship of another country will automatically lose their Australian Citizenship.

It invited submissions from interested parties by 2 April 1999. A group of 34 Australians living in Belgium signed on to a joint letter which was submitted on the subject of dual citizenship.

The Australian Citizenship Council was due to report to the Minister for Immigration by the end of 1999.

Their final report, and recommendations for change, will be available to the public at the end of February 2000.

Possible Action for a New Group:

Assess the position of the Citizenship Council in its forthcoming report on the issue of dual citizenship.

Lobby the Minister for Immigration (Ruddock) and other MPs in Australia to achieve change to the *Citizenship Act* allowing the acquisition of a second nationality without loss of Australian citizenship.

Web Sites of Interest:

Australians Abroad: www.coolabah.com/oz

Following Anne's contacts with the people who run this site, there is already considerable material on this issue on the site, as well as a free fax to Ruddock which can be used for lobbying purposes. This site is also a good forum for airing your ideas.

Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

www.immi.gov.au/citizenship/citpoll.htm