



Dear Submission Author

I am writing to bring to your attention the attached report of the Australian Citizenship Council *Australian Citizenship for a New Century* which I launched on Friday 18 February 2000. This report reviews a number of important matters dealing with Australian citizenship and as such I commend it to you for consideration and reflection.

Please accept my appreciation for your contribution to the work of the Council through lodging a submission. I understand that the views expressed in submissions have been taken into consideration by the Council in developing its report.

As you are aware, I announced the establishment of the Australian Citizenship Council in August 1998. Its primary task was to advise me on contemporary issues in Australian citizenship policy and law and how to promote increased community awareness of the significance of Australian citizenship for all Australians.

In response, the Council has produced a wide-ranging report which identifies major issues relevant to future citizenship policies and programs and puts forward a range of ideas for future directions. The report concentrates on how concepts of citizenship can best serve Australia and Australians in the new century and, to this end, makes a total of 64 recommendations addressing promotional aspects as well as issues of policy and law.

An important message in the report is that Australian citizenship has been a major success in that it has welcomed 3.1 million migrants as full participants in Australian society. In that sense it has contributed to the development of our inclusive multicultural community.

The Council has also concluded that more could be made of citizenship in Australia, particularly as a unifying concept, and that the Centenary of Federation, itself a time when Australians are likely to reflect on values that unite us as a nation, provides an ideal focal point for citizenship activities.

The Government will respond to the report, taking into account community responses to the report, later this year.

Thank you for your interest in Australian citizenship.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Ruddock'.

Philip Ruddock