

## **Southern Cross Group E-Bulletin to Members**

21 November 2000

Dear Australians, both in Australia and overseas,

As you are probably aware, the Southern Cross Group has been working to have the current restrictive and discriminatory provision in the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 on dual nationality repealed. Specifically, Section 17 of the Act presently means that if an Australian takes out a second nationality, by operation of law he or she surrenders Australian citizenship.

### THE LATEST NEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CANBERRA

Cabinet discussed this issue a little over a week ago. Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock is in favour of repealing Section 17. Other ministers thought that it might "dilute" Australian citizenship. The Prime Minister was reportedly undecided, although he did agree that dual citizenship is an important part of globalisation. The situation now is that PM Howard will make a decision after taking soundings from the Community.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP CONVINCING THE PRIME MINISTER THAT SECTION 17 SHOULD BE REPEALED!**

We have set up an automatic fax to John Howard on the Southern Cross Group website. If you support this legislative change, please go to <http://www.southern-cross-group.org> and take two minutes to send a fax to the PM.

Many thanks to the Australians Abroad website, which has made it technically possible for us to do this.

If you want to write a more individualised message to the PM on this issue, with your own text, please go to [http://www.pm.gov.au/your\\_feedback/feedback.htm](http://www.pm.gov.au/your_feedback/feedback.htm) where you can send an e-mail to him directly.

If you would like more information on this issue, please look at the Southern Cross Group website for background.

**EVERY VOICE COUNTS.**

**PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO FORWARD THIS MESSAGE ON TO ANY OTHER AUSTRALIAN, ANYWHERE, WHO MIGHT WISH TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON THIS ISSUE.**

Other News on dual nationality:

1. The Australian News magazine The Bulletin ran a very supportive story this week by Fred Brenchley on dual nationality.
2. Australian tennis star Jelena Dokic has reportedly obtained a Yugoslav passport in addition to the Australian passport she acquired on immigration to Australia four years ago. In future, she will have a choice of which country she plays for. Jelena is one of the lucky 4 million or so Australians who have the right to dual nationality by birth, whereas Australian-born Australians cannot obtain a second nationality without losing their Australian passports. Southern Cross Group has put out a press release on this issue connected with the Jelena story which was distributed to the Press Gallery at Parliament House in Canberra yesterday. See our website for the text soon.

Thank you everyone for working with us on this issue!

John Russell/Anne MacGregor  
for the SCG Management Committee

For full contact details of the SCG Committee Member nearest you, visit  
[www.southern-cross-group.org](http://www.southern-cross-group.org)