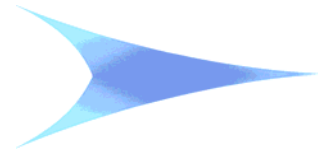


The Southern Cross Group

Promoting mobility in the global community



Dr Robin Fitzsimons
53 Bateman Street
Cambridge CB2 1 LR
UK
Fax/Phone 0044 1223 327 157

27 November 2000

Dual Nationality for Australians

Dear Dr Fitzsimons,

The Southern Cross Group is a non-profit organization recently formed at the impetus of a number of Australian expats. The Group aims to promote mobility in the global community by helping to remove legal, administrative and financial barriers which individuals face when they work and live outside their country of nationality. Our website at www.southern-cross-group.org outlines our current projects. One of these is Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948. Lorraine Buckland, the Coordinator of the Southern Cross Group in the UK, has recently been contacting Australians in the UK on this issue, and you may have already heard of what we are doing through her.

In doing some research on this issue, we came across an article entitled "Law Not Equal for All Citizens" which appeared in *The Canberra Times* on Monday 27 January 1997, of which we believe you were probably the author. (If you were not the author, then we hope that as an Australian abroad, you will nevertheless be interested in our work!)

Although your article is copyright of the Federal Capital Press of Australia, we believe that it gives a very interesting overview of the historical background of Section 17 and indeed makes forceful arguments for repeal. We are writing to ask whether you might consider contributing an updated or modified version of the article, which we would be very pleased to put up on our website, under your name.

In light of the Howard government's continuing failure to move on this issue, even in the face of the report by the Australian Citizenship Council earlier this year, we are urging as many Australians as possible to visit our site, inform themselves of the issue, and use the automatic fax facility to contact decision-makers in Canberra. An article by yourself, in view of your respected academic credentials, would add weight to our position and provide valuable information for readers.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

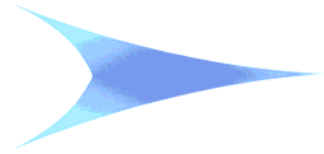
Yours sincerely,

John Russell
Member of the Southern Cross Group Management Committee

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cc. Lorraine Buckland, Co-ordinator SCG UK