

**Standard Text for Fax by SCG Members to the Prime Minister
November 2000**

Dear Prime Minister,

As an Australian living and working overseas, I am writing to urge you and your cabinet to put into action the recommendation of the Australian Citizenship Council which calls for the repeal of Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act (1946) so that Australian citizens over the age of 18 do not lose their Australian Citizenship on acquisition of another nationality.

Australians working overseas, many in international business and industry, face severe difficulties in operating effectively in a global business environment due to Section 17 as it currently stands. Acquisition of the nationality of the country where they are living and working would in most cases reduce the personal and professional hurdles they encounter, but many do not pursue this option because they wish to remain Australian.

I believe the Citizenship Act needs to be modernized to take account of the new global environment in which Australians must operate. You yourself have acknowledged, most recently in a speech of 13 October this year, that there is really no alternative to the process of globalisation, and that globalisation has brought economic gains and individual economic liberation to millions of people. Now is the time to help Australians both at home and abroad contribute in the most effective way possible to the new economy.

I urge you and your Government to introduce a bill to amend the Citizenship Act without delay. The repeal of Section 17 would be a fitting way to celebrate the centenary of Australian Federation in 2001 and a signal to all Australians and our trading partners that our nation supports individual mobility as an essential element of the global economy.

Yours sincerely,