

New Australian Flynns are happy as Larry

By TOM ROBINSON

Larry and Mary Flynn were smiling from ear to ear yesterday just after their citizenship ceremony in Canberra.

So was their three-year-old son, Riain who seemed pretty happy that Daddy had just become an Australian.

"John Howard asked me what had brought me out to Australia," Mr Flynn, who is originally from Massachusetts in the United States, said.

"I told him, 'my wife'. He said he could understand that."

Mr Flynn said he felt that the ceremony had been less of an event for him than for some others, since he was eligible for dual citizenship.

"It is much easier when you don't have to give up your own," he said.

He thought that more and more people would choose the dual-citizenship option if one was available.

Asked why he had wanted to become a citizen, he said he felt it was important to try to make a contribution.

"Plus," he said, "my son is Australian."

As for Riain, Mrs Flynn said he had been "very well behaved", despite the muggy atmosphere.

She explained that they were teaching him about the respective leaders of his parents' countries.

"We have done George Bush and we're now working on John Howard," she laughed. Altogether, 7000 people from all corners of the globe became Australian citizens yesterday.