

Southern Cross Group E-Bulletin to Members

2 January 2001

Letter to PM Howard on Dual Nationality

Dear Southern Cross Group Friends,

Many of you will recall that in our last e-bulletin to you, we reported that Southern Cross Group representatives would be meeting with key people in Canberra and Sydney during December regarding Australian dual nationality. A full report of these meetings will be posted to our website in the near future.

As a result of our meetings, and what we have learnt from them, the SCG has sent an Open Letter to Prime Minister John Howard. The full text of this letter is copied below.

It has become clear that we are now in a critical and final phase of our campaign to have Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 repealed. The issue rests largely with the Prime Minister, and he may take a decision as early as the end of January 2001.

We need your help in this last phase. The SCG is asking people to read through the Open Letter, and then to contact the PM individually endorsing the letter if they feel they can do so. Specifically we would ask people to add their own comments and their own case history for the PM's broader understanding of the negative impact of this provision. We know that many people have already sent the standard fax which was accessible through our site from the Australians Abroad website in the last few months. Some have also already written to the PM personally or sent an individual e-mail through his homepage feedback facility.

At this stage, we would ask you to contact the PM again, even if you have already done so. It is important to let the PM know how you specifically might be impacted by s. 17, or already have been impacted by s. 17, or, if you are already legally a dual national under Australian law, it would be useful to point out the benefits you have experienced due to dual nationality.

We believe that your communication with the Prime Minister will have most impact if in this instance it is done on your personal or company letterhead and either sent snail mail or by fax, rather than electronically. It has been our experience that e-mails sent through the feedback facility are answered by a public servant in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Prime Minister's contact details are as follows:

The Hon. John Howard MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Fax +61 2 62734100

Or

Level 9
Charterbridge House
56-70 Phillip Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax +61 2 9251 5454

If you prefer to use e-mail, there is a link to the PM's home page feedback facility on our web page under "Dual Nationality: Introduction" at <http://www.southern-cross-group.org>

Many thanks for your continuing support in this endeavour, and a Happy New Year to all.

Best regards,
John Russell/Anne MacGregor
For the SCG Management Committee

For the full text of the SCG's Open Letter to the PM of 2 January 2001, please see the separate document in our archives.