

# The Southern Cross Group

*Promoting mobility in the global community*



Mr. Peter Hughes  
First Assistant Secretary  
Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Division  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs  
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Dear Mr. Hughes,

On behalf of the members of the Southern Cross Group, thank you for the meeting on 11 December with Mr. John MacGregor and myself.

Our members appreciate your concerted efforts with respect to updating the provisions of the 1948 Citizenship Act related to dual nationality. We were most encouraged to hear the supporting views of various government ministerial staffs and business groups while in Australia. During a meeting with the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff Mr. Arthur Sinodinos we discussed the upcoming innovation statement by the Government and the need for Australia to evolve policies optimising the impact of globalization.

In this context, we have some cause for optimism on the likelihood of repeal of Section 17 of the Citizenship Act, regarding dual nationality. The Southern Cross Group shares the objective of promoting the competitiveness of Australia. This innovation statement will give useful policy direction to this end.

However, if you believe that our gauging of the "temperature" is wrong or further efforts are required to convince members of the Government of the advantages of Section 17 repeal, please let us know.

The Southern Cross Group has members spread through a broad range of countries and professions. It has a large number of committed Australians and is keen to play a constructive role in promoting Australian interests globally. From this reservoir of expertise, if we can assist with your work where you consider appropriate in canvassing opinions or research for optimizing policies for Australia, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for agreeing to meet us and for your efforts in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Russell  
Member of the Management Committee