

The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



The President
Australian Products Co.
3080 Neal Avenue
San Jose, CA 95128

Fax 408 249 9322

March 12, 2001

Dear Christyne,

Australian Law on Dual Citizenship

The Southern Cross Group is a non-profit organization working to enhance mobility for individuals who live and work outside of their country of nationality. Our Group was founded primarily by professional Australians who are pursuing careers overseas.

We are currently lobbying the Australian government to repeal Section 17 of the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*. This provision automatically takes away your Australian nationality when you take on another citizenship.

Many Australians who have lived overseas long enough to qualify to take on the citizenship of the country in which they live face undue financial and other burdens if they decide to keep their Australian nationality. Our Group is advocating that all Australians should have the right to dual citizenship. There are already up to 5 million Australians who hold dual citizenship legally due to the fact that they were naturalized in Australia or have a second nationality by descent. The current law discriminates against Australian-born Australians who start from a base of having only Australian citizenship.

Our website sets out full details of this issue, at www.southern-cross-group.org. The Southern Cross Group has submitted an open letter to Prime Minister John Howard. We are asking that other Australians, who may have already been affected by this issue, or who may be impacted in the future, add their voice to ours, by writing, faxing, or e-mailing the Prime Minister. Contact details for the Prime Minister are up on our website.

We would also be glad if you could let other Australians know about this issue. Our research indicates that there are now over 800,000 Australians living outside Australia, with around 25,000 at least in the United States. Individuals can join our free e-bulletin list by sending us their e-mail address to info@southern-cross-group.org. There are no membership fees and we do not share our database with any other organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Anne MacGregor
North American Coordinator