



**Philip Ruddock MP**

Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

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## News Room

### Views Sought on Loss of Australian Citizenship

#### MPS 072/2001

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Mr Philip Ruddock, today released a discussion paper inviting community opinions on whether Australian citizens should continue to lose their citizenship when they acquire another citizenship.

The Australian Citizenship Council recommended that section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 (which provides for loss of Australian citizenship on acquisition of another citizenship) be repealed, so that Australian citizens over the age of 18 do not lose their Australian citizenship when they acquire another citizenship.

In its response to the Council's report, Australian Citizenship... A Common Bond, the Government indicated a disposition to support the Council's recommendation to repeal section 17.

"Repeal of section 17 would allow Australian citizens over the age of 18 to retain their citizenship when they acquire another citizenship," Mr Ruddock said.

"However, given the significance of this change to longstanding citizenship law and practice, the Government considers it important that the community has a further opportunity to express its views on this issue before it makes a final decision."

The discussion paper Loss of Australian Citizenship on Acquisition of Another Citizenship covers the key facts and issues for discussion and will facilitate community consultation on this important issue.

"I invite you to consider these issues and welcome your views on whether section 17 should be repealed or otherwise," Mr Ruddock said.

"I encourage and look forward to contributions to this review of an important aspect of Australian citizenship."

#### Editor's note:

Written submissions should be forwarded by Friday 6 July 2001 to:

The Director  
Citizenship Policy Section  
PO Box 25  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Submissions may also be e-mailed to [Citizenship@immi.gov.au](mailto:Citizenship@immi.gov.au). The discussion paper is available on the Internet address: <http://www.immi.gov.au/citizenship/0601paper/index.htm> or by writing to the above address or by telephoning (02) 6264 1322 (answering machine)

**7 June 2001**