

## **Southern Cross Group E-Bulletin to Members**

13 June 2001

### **July 6- Deadline for Dual Citizenship Views**

Dear Southern Cross Group Friends,

On 8 June 2001 Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock released a government Discussion Paper about Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act. The paper is called "Loss of Australian Citizenship on Acquisition Of Another Citizenship" and can be accessed at

<http://www.immi.gov.au/citizenship/0601paper/index.htm>

The government is calling for your views by Friday 6 July 2001. On 17 May the government said it was "disposed" towards repeal of this provision, but due to the important nature of the issue, it wanted to engage in further community consultation first. This new Discussion Paper is the forum for that further consultation.

We encourage you to make a submission to Canberra, in the form of a simple letter, which tells your individual story and urges the repeal of Section 17. Our ideas and suggestions to help you put together your letter are at

<http://www.southern-cross-group.org/sys-tmpl/yoursubmission/>

We know that many people have already written to the government, sometimes more than once, on this issue, over the last two years.

Please take the time once more at this stage to put in a formal letter by 6 July 2001. We sincerely hope this is the last battle in the war to have Section 17 repealed!

The Southern Cross Group has set up a new Help Desk to support you in preparing your letter so that you can get your voice heard with maximum impact on this issue.

Our Help Desk contact info is at

<http://www.southern-cross-group.org/sys-tmpl/helpdesk/>

If you are in the United States, you can access the Help Desk through our new toll free number, at 1 866 SCG IN US (1 866 724 4687). (AT&T assures us this will be operational within a few days - if it doesn't work when you first try, please try later or phone +1 202 483 0567 and we will call you back).

If you are in Australia, our Help Desk contact there is Ellie Palmer in Adelaide, on 0411 110 634.

If you are anywhere else in the world, you can reach the Help Desk by placing a collect or reverse charges call to +1 202 483 0567 or faxing +1 202 483 0568.

The Help Desk e-mail address is [Section17@southern-cross-group.org](mailto:Section17@southern-cross-group.org)

Submissions/letters can be e-mailed directly to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) at [Citizenship@immi.gov.au](mailto:Citizenship@immi.gov.au).

Please put the subject heading "Views on Section 17" in your e-mail.

You can also fax your letter to DIMA on +61 2 6264 1073. The snail mail address is The Director, Citizenship Policy Section, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, PO Box 25, Belconnen ACT 2616, Australia.

Although we strongly urge you to write your own letter for maximum effect, for those that cannot, for whatever reason, compose an original letter to Canberra, please take a few moments to send a free fax with a standard text expressing your support for the repeal of Section 17 at:

<http://www.australiansabroad.com/oz/expats/discussion.cfm#AUTO>

Many thanks to the Australians Abroad website for making the free fax facility available.

Remember, every single voice counts. All Australians should have the right to dual citizenship. Thank you once again for getting behind us in this endeavour.

Best regards,  
Anne MacGregor/John Russell  
SCG Management Committee  
<http://www.southern-cross-group.org>

*The Southern Cross Group is a volunteer international non-profit Advocacy organisation dedicated to speaking up for the 820,000 Australians who live overseas.*

PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL TO ANY AUSTRALIAN YOU HAVE IN YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS BOOK, WHETHER IN AUSTRALIA OR ELSEWHERE!