

Southern Cross Group E-Bulletin to Members

27 June 2001

CALLING ALL AUSTRALIANS!

Dear SCG Friends,

As many people will already be aware, the deadline for getting your input into Canberra on the issue of dual citizenship looms. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) has called for submissions by Friday 6 July 2001.

If you haven't already had your say, please take a few minutes out to do so before the deadline. The easiest way to express your support for the repeal of Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act is simply to send a pre-drafted message to which you just have to add your own contact details. This can be done through:

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

We'd like to thank the Australians Abroad website for making this technically possible.

If you'd like to read the Government's latest Discussion Paper about Section 17, have a look at

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

We think that a letter telling your story will have the most impact. If you'd like some ideas and suggestions on what to write in your own individual response, access the Southern Cross Group website at

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

Submissions can be sent to DIMA by e-mail (citizenship@immi.gov.au) or by snail mail (The Director, Citizenship Policy Section, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, PO Box 25, Belconnen ACT 2616, Australia) or by fax to +61 2 6264 1073.

We also have a Help Desk for on-line and telephone support. Full details at

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

We know that many hundreds of Australians around the world have written to Canberra on this issue over the last two years. But if you haven't yet put in a submission in response to the Government's latest Discussion Paper of 8 June 2001, then please do take just a few minutes before 6 July to make your voice heard once more. (Even if you can't get your submission in until first thing Monday 9 July Canberra time, we think it would be okay!)

And - if you're feeling really energetic - please forward this message on to any other overseas Aussies you know of, and your friends and relatives back in Australia and get them to help too. Remember that less than one tenth of Australians overseas voted overseas in the last Federal Election, and it's the voters at home that politicians really listen to. Sending our automatic pre-drafted message is a cinch. If we can get Section 17 repealed all Australians will have the right to dual citizenship. And no further Australians will have to forfeit their Australian nationality.

Thanks to everyone for your continuing support.

Best regards,

Anne MacGregor/John Russell
SCG Management Committee
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