

# How would *you* feel if you were stripped of your Australian Citizenship?

Since 1948, thousands of Australians have forfeited their Australian citizenship, many unwittingly, due to Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act. This provision automatically takes away your Australian citizenship when you apply for and acquire a second citizenship. Dual citizenship is prohibited under Australian law for those starting from a base of only Australian citizenship.

But understand this. You can be a dual citizen under Australian law if you have two nationalities by virtue of descent or naturalization. Around five million Australians are legal dual nationals.

## Do you think it's fair that three-quarters of Australians don't have the right to dual citizenship when the other quarter does?

Read the new Australian Government Discussion Paper about Section 17 at  
<http://www.immi.gov.au/citizenship/0601paper/index.htm>

Have your say and help us get this discriminatory provision repealed by sending an e-mail to [Citizenship@immi.gov.au](mailto:Citizenship@immi.gov.au) with subject heading "Views on Section 17". Or send your letter to The Director, Citizenship Policy Section, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, PO Box 25, Belconnen ACT 2616, Australia. Alternatively, send a fax to +61 2 6264 1073.

**Canberra wants your views by Friday 6 July 2001.**

Want more information? Feel like getting involved? Check out the Southern Cross Group website. We're a volunteer international non-profit advocacy organisation dedicated to speaking up for the 820,000 Australians living overseas. Get on-line help in preparing your letter to the government, and if you don't want to write an original submission, you can send a free fax expressing your support for the repeal of Section 17 through our site. Every voice counts.

*The right to dual citizenship for all Australians. It makes sense for Australia. It makes sense for you.*

### **The Southern Cross Group**

*Promoting Mobility in the Global Community*

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*For telephone enquiries place a reverse charges call to the SCG Help Desk  
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