

Dual residency to open business doors

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AUSTRALIANS can have dual citizenship under laws that are expected to boost our profile in the global business community.

Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock yesterday gave the green light to the laws which will allow Australians to reside in two countries.

Mr Ruddock said the changes would allow internationally mobile Australians to access overseas opportunities while keeping links with Australia.

The laws will also bring us into line with citizenship laws of countries such as Canada and the UK.

“They will ensure Australia remains one of the world leaders in the information economy,” Mr Ruddock said.

Chief executive of the Internet Industry Association Peter Coroneos has been an advocate for dual citizenship.

He said it was important to leave the door open for professional Australians who take out overseas citizenship.

With dual citizenship the door was always open for talented Australians to come home, he said.

Major trading partners have long allowed the holding of dual citizenship. For us to be competitive with major trading partners it is important we remove any barriers to the repatriation of skills and capital.”

A recent Accenture report, *Rhetoric Versus Reality: Closing the Gap*, and assessments by the Economic Intelligence Unit both reveal Australia to be in the top tier of nations as far as e-government is concerned.

The third Government Online survey also shows Commonwealth online services are becoming more sophisticated in offering downloadable and interactive information.

“We have deliberately set the bar very high to achieve this vital transformation,” Mr Ruddock said. “Just as the private sector is responding to the challenge of e-commerce and ICT developments and the changing environment -- so is the Commonwealth.”