

Australians gain right to dual citizenship

AUSTRALIANS will be able to become citizens of another country without having to renounce their homeland under changes announced by the Federal Government yesterday.

The dual citizenship move follows hundreds of submissions being sent to the Government calling for the change.

Australians have been unable to hold dual citizenship although immigrants who become Australians have been able to retain the citizenship of their original country if that country allows dual nationality.

Last year the Australian Citizenship Council urged the Government to amend the law in the Centenary of Federation year.

Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said yesterday the Government would introduce laws into Parliament.

"This change will allow the growing numbers of internationally mobile Australians to take advantage of opportunities overseas while maintaining their links with Australia and bringing back to the Australian community their valuable expertise and knowledge," Mr Ruddock said.