

## **Move to allow Aussies dual ID**

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

The Government agreed to allow dual citizenship after receiving hundreds of submissions from people, businesses and community groups calling for the change.

But the law is not retrospective and Australians will continue to lose their citizenship if they acquire another until the changes are passed in Parliament.

Australians have so far been unable to hold dual citizenship even if they moved to other countries simply to pursue business interests or to study.

“The Government will move to repeal section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 so that in future, Australians will no longer lose their citizenship if they acquire another citizenship,” Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said.

Almost all of the 800 submissions the government received in response to a proposal to amend the law were in favour of the change.

The change allows 14 million Australian-born people eager to further their careers overseas to enjoy the same rights as the five million people born overseas or who are entitled to overseas dual citizenship because of their parentage.

The changes will bring Australia in line with citizenship laws of countries including the UK, Canada, the United States, New Zealand, France and Italy.