

Letters to the Editor (8/8/01)

Canberra Times

Wednesday, 8 August 2001

Citizenship something to be cherished

I READ with considerable sadness your report Aussies soon to be dual citizens (CT, August 4, p3). I was always under the impression that citizenship was something both to be proud of and to be cherished. It is like in marriage, a commitment on both sides. It seems I was suffering under a grave misconception. I remember how proud I felt when after a number of years of being a stateless "displaced person" I became a citizen of Australia. I was, and still am, very proud of becoming an Australian by choice. It is very sad that dual citizenship will become a norm. Can you be a committed person to two or more countries (with sometimes conflicting interest)? Or will the dual citizen find him/herself on the floor between two chairs when the chips are down? Will citizenship become nothing more than a commercial convenience and the passport simply just a travel document? Is dual citizenship one additional sacrifice on the altar of globalisation?

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