

## **The Australian 13 August 2001**

### **Letters to the Editor**

Dual citizens simply lack the paperwork

This citizen business is a mess. My husband has two passports (New Zealand and Australian), my son also has two (Australian and German) and could apply for a third (NZ). I have one (German). For the past 25 years I would have liked to have become an Australian citizen, to be able to vote, join the public service, enter into politics or leave the country without needing a re-entry visa.

But it would have cost me my German citizenship, meaning I could not have stayed with my family in Germany (or anywhere else in Europe) for longer than three months. For my son, born in Australia to a Germany mother and NZ father (and therefore eligible for dual or even triple citizenship) there are no such time restrictions.

Becoming an Australian citizen, I would also have lost two decades of contributions to my Germany superannuation fund, which will soon pay my pension thus saving the Australian Government from supporting me in my old age.

Yet I am not allowed to vote (neither here nor in Germany) and I cannot leave Australia without my (expensive) re-entry visa being up to date. It is time that Australian streamlined its dual citizenship agreements.

KARIN FRANCIS  
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Roger Cook's letter (9/8) has the authentic voice of the "me generation" ("I want to have my cake and eat it").

Australians who go to other lands to work and, finding things to their satisfaction, elect to remain there are quite simply economic migrants.

If, with hand on heart, they pledge allegiance to say the US to gain benefits of such citizenship this is not to become an Australian national resource – your editorial (11/12/8) rather overcooks the broth on that one – but for personal gain. If we accept the national resource theory, it becomes almost patriotic to take up foreign citizenship. An interesting thought.

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