

Dual citizens layered not split

J.B. TONER (Letters, 7/8) wants to know who said they wanted split citizens? - I did, for one.

J.B. Toner asks about the consultation process the Minister for Immigration used, starting last May, before deciding to increase the availability of dual citizenship.

Well, J.B. Toner, he asked the Australian community by flying the kite. He simply saved the cost of ads, and the delay of a formal submissions process, by using the news columns. It's a perfectly legitimate and well-understood process. He had been under pressure to make the change for months, if not years, from rational sources within and outside Australia.

The great virtue of the decision is that it allows the many Aussies who reside overseas to take up citizenship in their new homes without having to abjure, or be stripped of, their Australian citizenship.

The new system will ameliorate the plight of our expatriates by not forcing them to choose. And it will help Australia by not casting off citizens simply because they have chosen to reside overseas.

When, and if, some of these citizens repatriate, they will again be part of the Australian community instead of being artificial foreigners.

ROGER B. COOK
Malvern, Vic

THE amendment of Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 brings us into line with Britain and New Zealand and ends discrimination against Australians working overseas.

I have been an Australian citizen since 1974 but did not have to relinquish my UK citizenship.

When Queen Elizabeth became Queen of Australia, surely our citizenship was also implicitly bestowed?

How could our head of state not be a citizen of our country?

Or did our parliament explicitly deny her that privilege?

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