

Southern Cross Group E-Bulletin to Members
23 August 2001

Dual Citizenship Bill Introduced

Dear Southern Cross Group Friends,

We are very pleased to report that Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock introduced the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment Bill 2001 into the House of Representatives in Canberra on Thursday 23 August 2001. Once this is passed, and comes into force, Australians will no longer forfeit their Australian citizenship when they take another citizenship. Section 17 of the Act will be repealed.

The transcripts of proceedings in Parliament (Hansard) and the Minister's second reading speech can be viewed at <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/rep/dailys/dr230801.pdf>

Go to page 29967 of the proceedings (the fifth page for the day) to read the relevant material.

If you do not have Adobe Reader and cannot read this pdf file, view the Minister's second reading speech in HTML format at

<http://search.aph.gov.au/search/ParlInfo.ASP?action=view&item=8&from=browse&path=Chamber/House+Hansard/2001/Spring/23+August+2001&items=123>

You can also access the text of the bill itself through this link.

This bill will in addition bring about other changes to Australian citizenship legislation. Perhaps most importantly, apart from the repeal of Section 17, it will allow children born to Australian citizens overseas to be registered as Australian citizens by descent up until they turn 25, rather than just 18.

We will keep you updated on the progress of this legislation through Parliament. We hope that it can be passed before Parliament rises to campaign for the election - which may be in mid October. So there are not many sitting days left, but fingers crossed!

Remember - if you are an Australian contemplating applying for a second citizenship, you should not do so until the legislation is passed and comes into force.

Best regards,
Anne MacGregor/John Russell
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