



THE HONOURABLE CON SCIACCA MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION

**SHADOW MINISTER ASSISTING THE LEADER OF
THE OPPOSITION ON MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS**

29 October 2001

Ms Anne MacGregor
SCG Co-Founder & North American Coordinator
Southern Cross Group
1884 1/2 Ontario Place NW
WASHINGTON DC 20009 USA

Dear Anne

Thank you for your recent correspondence seeking Labor's views on the ongoing debate with respect to the dual citizenship issue.

As you are aware, the Federal Opposition has been the driving force behind the Government's reluctant moves to repeal section 17 of the Citizenship Act, thus allowing many thousands of Australians to acquire the nationality of another Country as well as retain their Australian citizenship.

In a competitive World, it is essential that Australia facilitate the flow of information, careers, talents and skills for its citizens so that they can continue to further their ambitions, realise their aspirations and return to Australia to further contribute to our talent base.

In the context of Kim Beazley's push for a Knowledge Nation, I regard the issue of dual citizenship as an important piece of this policy's jigsaw.

I can assure you and all the members of the Southern Cross Group that following a Labor victory on November 10, the dual citizenship legislation will be debated and passed in the Parliament as a matter of priority and without delay.

My only regret is that the Howard Government did not see fit to debate the dual citizenship legislation in the last week of Parliament as planned, but rather chose to focus solely on issues where political points could be scored in the lead up to an election, thus neglecting other important and positive measures such as the repeal of section 17.

In the meantime Anne, I would like to thank you for your efforts and the good work of the Southern Cross Group in ensuring that this very important matter remained at the forefront of my thinking over the past three years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Con Sciacca'.

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