

The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



The Hon John Howard, MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

10 December 2001

Dear Prime Minister,

The Southern Cross Group is an international non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to representing the interests of Australians overseas. Our membership includes Australians in many countries and we have a broad network of contacts with many Australian expatriate groups around the world.

Recently we have been active in pursuing the repeal of Section 17 of the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* so that all Australians may have the right to dual citizenship. Last December representatives of our Group met with Arthur Sinodinos to discuss this issue. We were very heartened when the Government introduced legislation into the House of Representatives on 23 August which would repeal Section 17 and hope that this legislation will be introduced again early in the term of the new Parliament.

Apart from dual citizenship, the Southern Cross Group is active on a number of other matters which impact large numbers of the some 820,000 Australian citizens overseas. At this time we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or someone in your office to discuss the broader concerns of Australian expatriates, and to provide you with a better understanding of the work of our organization.

We will both be in Australia during December, and wonder if a meeting could be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

Both the undersigned will be in Sydney from Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 December. In addition, we will be in Canberra on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 December. Anne MacGregor is presently in Canberra and can be reached at 02 6247 6952 or 0419 232 016 or by e-mail at anne@southern-cross-group.org. John Russell may be reached in Belgium until Friday 14 December at the address below or by e-mail at john@southern-cross-group.org.

We hope that there will be an opportunity for a meeting with you and look forward to a constructive dialogue with you during the term of the new Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Anne MacGregor / John Russell
SCG Co-founders
Washington DC and Brussels