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Subject: Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment Bill 2001

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 10:03:57 +1000

To Kate Juliff, Saskia Feain and Anne MacGregor

Thank you for expressing your support for the repeal of section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 and for raising awareness of this important issue through the Australians Abroad and the Southern Cross Group websites.

As you are aware, the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment Bill 2001 was scheduled for a second reading debate in the House of Representatives of Thursday 27 September 2001. However, due to the high volume of business before Parliament, the debate on this Bill was deferred to a later date.

The Bill lapsed when the Federal Election was called and Parliament was dissolved. Our Government has given its commitment to reintroducing the Bill as soon as it is practicable, after Parliament resumes on 12 February 2002.

Information on the progress of the Bill is available from the website of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs:

<http://www.immi.gov.au>

or Parliament House:

<http://www.aph.gov.au>

Until the Bill becomes an Act, adult Australians will continue to lose their Australian citizenship if they acquire the citizenship of another country. Resumption provisions however, remain unchanged.

Please be assured that in line with our election commitment, the Government remains committed to this legislation, that will be re-introduced to Parliament as a priority. I anticipate that it will be amongst Mr Hardgrave's first tasks as the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, and is likely to be introduced in the first parliamentary sitting week.

We have delayed responding to the many emails received, wanting to respond with a significant update on the progress of the Bill. Once the Bill has been introduced, the Minister will be writing to those who have emailed advising of the introduction and informing them of how they can watch the progress of the Bill through both houses of Parliament.

I trust this information will be of assistance to your many subscribers.
I will endeavour to email you with significant milestones on the passage
of the Bill.

Regards

Kate Wallace
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