

Southern Cross Group E-Bulletin to Members

22 February 2002

Citizenship Debate Continues

Dear Southern Cross Group friends,

In our last e-bulletin we informed you that a Bill to repeal Section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 was introduced into the House of Representatives in Canberra on 13 February. Once this Bill is law, no further Australians will forfeit their Australian citizenship on the acquisition of another citizenship.

At this stage we wanted to let you know that debate resumed on the Bill in the House on Thursday 21 February, but has not yet concluded. Our Australian Coordinator, John ("Sid") MacGregor, was in the public gallery to watch the proceedings live.

Shadow Minister for Citizenship, Laurie Ferguson MP, spoke both before and after Question Time. In his speech he recognised the efforts of the Southern Cross Group in keeping this issue on the agenda. You can link to the relevant Hansard extract and read further details on the front page of our website at

<http://www.southern-cross-group.org>

We have learned that several additional MPs wish to speak on the Bill when the debate continues. The House sits again in the week of 11 March and we will notify everyone again when there is more to report.

Best regards

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