



Dear Correspondent

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the status of repeal of section 17 of the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* so that adult Australian citizens no longer lose their citizenship if they acquire the citizenship of another country.

I fully understand and sympathise with the concerns of the many Australians who wish to see section 17 repealed.

I am pleased to advise that one of my first tasks as the first ever Commonwealth Minister for Citizenship was to re-introduce the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment Bill on the first business day of the new Parliament – 13 February 2002.

This reflects the priority given to the legislation, in line with the election commitment contained in our “Strength Through Diversity” policy.

When the Bill is passed, section 17 will be repealed on the day the Act receives Royal Assent. Australian citizens who acquire another citizenship from that date, will no longer lose their Australian citizenship. However, until that time, adult Australians will continue to lose their Australian citizenship if they acquire the citizenship of another country. Persons who have lost their Australian citizenship by acquiring another citizenship may apply to resume their Australian citizenship under existing legislation.

If you would like to monitor the progress of the 2002 Bill, information is available from the website of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) or [www.citizenship.gov.au](http://www.citizenship.gov.au) or Parliament House: [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au).

I trust that you will find this advice of assistance. Thank you for drawing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Gary Hardgrave