



Mr Michael Young
18 Westleigh Avenue
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UNITED KINGDOM

30 APR 2003

Dear Mr Young

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 2003 concerning Australian citizenship.

You suggest that Australian citizenship legislation should be amended to grant permanent residence or Australian citizenship to people in your situation who spent their formative years in Australia and travelled overseas for work reasons thinking that they were Australian citizens. You also mention that many UK born immigrants have been misinformed or given wrong advice concerning their Australian citizenship status.

I regret that you were not able to obtain adequate advice from my Department in the 1960s. Nowadays, comprehensive and accurate information is available through departmental websites, telephone information services and regional and overseas offices.

As you mention in your letter, under the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* (the Act), to be eligible for Australian citizenship, an applicant must be an Australian permanent resident who has resided in Australia for at least two years as a permanent resident.

Whilst I sympathise with your situation, I regret that there is no discretion under the Act to waive the eligibility requirement that a person be an Australian permanent resident. However, your comments on this issue will be kept for reference should a future review of the Act take place.

I regret I am unable to be of more assistance to you on this occasion. Thank you for drawing this matter to attention.

Yours sincerely


Gary Hardgrave