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I would like to commend Helen Pitt (The Bulletin, 4 November 2003 – *Write of Passage*) for her article on Australians abroad.

Australia's population is becoming increasingly mobile. More and more Australians take advantage of the internationalisation of labour markets and greater overseas opportunities in a wide variety of fields from business to education. Australians overseas promote Australia, create business opportunities at home and abroad and bring back their skills and experience.

Australians overseas also share the common bond of Australian citizenship. This was recognised last year with the amendment to the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*, allowing Australians to retain their citizenship if they obtain the citizenship of another country.

The amendment was one of the first laws passed by the Howard Government after the 2001 election. This change has brought Australia into line with the citizenship practises of many countries including the UK, Canada, New Zealand, USA, France and Italy.

There have always been provisions in the Act for those Australians who lost their citizenship before the amendment in 2002, to resume their Australian citizenship. Information is available on my Department's citizenship website:
www.citizenship.gov.au.

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