

Plan to make it easier to become born-again Australians

Becoming a born-again Australian will be easier under changes to the Citizenship Act proposed by the Federal Government.

Under the changes, people would be eligible to regain Australian citizenship lost when they became citizens of another country, provided they were of good character.

All children born overseas to former Australian citizens also would be eligible to become Australians, provided they were of good character.

It would also become easier for foreign spouses of Australians who spent much of their time overseas for work purposes to become Australian citizens.

Also, the age at which citizen-

ship applicants became exempt from English-language requirements would be lowered to 50 from 60.

Citizenship Minister Gary Hardgrave told the Sydney Institute the changes would bring the 55-year-old Citizenship Act into line with the reality of modern Australia.

"These further commonsense changes will benefit people who

wish to resume their Australian citizenship and regain access to their Australian heritage," Mr Hardgrave said.

"The changes will also mean removal of the age limits for registration of citizenship by descent, and give children of former Australian citizens access to their Australian heritage."

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