



The Hon Gary Hardgrave MP
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Mr Michael Young
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13 AUG 2004

Dear Mr Young

Thank you for your letter of 15 July 2004 concerning the planned changes to the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*.

There are provisions in Australia's migration program for former residents as follows:

- people who have spent at least nine out of their first 18 years in Australia, are under 45 at the time of lodging their application, and have maintained business, cultural or personal ties with Australia; and
- former permanent residents who served in the Australian armed forces before 1981. Applicants must have either completed at least three months' continuous Australian Defence Force service or have been discharged on medical grounds before completing three months' continuous service. No age limits applies to this new category.

Information is available from my Department's website: www.immi.gov.au or the Australian High Commission in London.

Thank you for your interest in Australian citizenship.

Yours sincerely


Gary Hardgrave