

Letters to the Editor

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Expats want their citizenship back

The Age (26/1) reports that approximately a million Australians entitled to take out citizenship have not done so. In fact, this number could be far higher if another group of "Australians" is added.

All that is needed is for the new Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Peter McGauran, to put into law the reform proposed by his predecessor, Gary Hardgrave, last July.

This would allow former Australians, now living overseas, who lost their citizenship under section 17 of the Australian Citizenship Act, 1948, to resume their citizenship.

It would also enable their children over the age of 18 to become Australians.

When will the Australian Government translate this promised reform into law?

Can these lost Australians hope that by Australia Day 2006 they may again legally call Australia home?

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