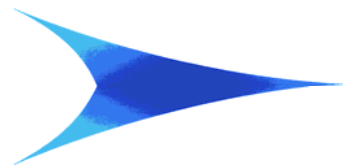


The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



MEDIA RELEASE

[What's Still Wrong with Australian Citizenship Law](#)

Australian Citizenship Day, Wednesday 17 September 2008

In advance of Australian Citizenship Day this coming Wednesday 17 September, the Southern Cross Group (SCG) has today published a discussion paper entitled [What's Still Wrong with Australian Citizenship Law](#).

The document, intended to stimulate a dialogue with government and in the Australian community, aims to highlight a number of scenarios in the Australian diaspora of individuals still excluded from formal membership of the Australian community under the Australian Citizenship Act 2007.

One such case is Roger Allan born in the UK in 1945. He is the product of a wartime romance between an Australian-born father and an English-born mother.

Roger's father Peter Douglas Allan was born on 12 May 1922 in Melbourne and enlisted in the RAAF at Ripponlea to fight for king and country during World War II as soon as he was old enough. He subsequently trained as a pilot in Canada and England. He met Roger's mother, Barbara Annie Bateman, born in the UK in 1920, in Egypt in 1944, where she was stationed as a Captain in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. They married there in early 1945 and Barbara became pregnant with Roger.

Tragically, Flying Officer Peter Allan was killed in combat in his Kittyhawk while flying over the Argenta Gap near Imola in Italy on 19 April 1945, aged just 22. Barbara then returned to her parents in England where Roger was born on 29 September 1945.

Roger, now retired, has stayed in touch with his father's family in Australia all his life. His father's mother made the trip to England to visit him in 1953 when he was eight and Roger first went to Australia in 1970 and has visited several times since. He remains in close contact with his Australian cousins.

Although he had an Australian-born father who died serving his country, Roger has no route to Australian citizenship under the 2007 Act.

To learn more about Roger's story and those of others who fall between the cracks in Australian citizenship law, [read the SCG's new discussion paper here](#).

These omissions in the legislation appear to be inadvertent, and probably exist because the particular scenarios now uncovered by the SCG were simply never envisaged when the present Act was originally drafted.

The SCG urges the government to consider legislative amendments to the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* to "fix" these dilemmas.

Contacts:

John ("Sid") MacGregor in Canberra, +61 2 6248 9038, mobile +61 418 621 918, sid@southern-cross-group.org

Jacqui Mowbray in Sydney, +61 2 9351 0316 work, mobile +61 419 744 308, jacqui@southern-cross-group.org

Robyn Stephenson, in Michigan, USA, mobile +1 616 403 2819, robyn@southern-cross-group.org

Anne MacGregor in Brussels, Belgium, mobile +32 474 950 131, anne@southern-cross-group.org

About the Southern Cross Group

The Southern Cross Group is an international non-profit volunteer-run advocacy and support organisation for the Australian diaspora. Since its formation in early 2000, the SCG has established a consistent track record of intelligent and timely submissions to Government on a host of Australian expatriate issues. The Group is best known for its work in reforming Australian citizenship law. It has also been active on the issue of expatriate disenfranchisement in the Australian electoral process, and was the driving force behind the establishment of a broad-based dedicated Australian Senate Committee Inquiry into Australian expatriates held in 2003-2005.

The SCG has no paid staff and is funded by donations which go towards offsetting overheads such as software licensing fees, web hosting costs, postage, stationery, and communications expense. [Please help the SCG by making a donation.](#)

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www.southern-cross-group.org

info@southern-cross-group.org

15 September 2008