

The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



Mr Warren A. Lewis
District Director
INS District Office
4420 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington VA 22203

March 9, 2001

Dear Mr Lewis,

Statistics on Australians in the United States

The Southern Cross Group is a non-profit organization working to enhance mobility for individuals who live and work outside of their country of nationality. Our Group was founded primarily by professional Australians who are pursuing careers overseas.

We are currently researching the nature, geography and extent of the modern Australian diaspora, and we are seeking to collect data from a variety of sources as to the number of Australians living and working overseas and how they are spread across the professions.

While we have already obtained data from the 1990 U. S. Census as to the number of people who declared themselves with Australian ancestry, and as born in Australia, we have learned that similar data for the 2000 Census is unlikely to be available until late next year.

For this reason, we were wondering whether the INS keeps any statistics as to the numbers of people of particular nationalities who are permanently resident in the United States with Green Cards, and who are otherwise in the United States on various types of working or study visas. We would also be grateful for any information the INS may have as to the particular professions which Australians in the US are active in.

The data we are collecting will shortly be part of a section on our website presenting statistics about the Australian diaspora. Our research indicates that there is currently a significant brain drain out of Australia in the liberal professions and the science and technology fields, and that there are now as many as 800,000 Australians living abroad. Australia has a current population of 19 million. One of the aims of our organization is to encourage policy makers in Australia to understand and use the talent bank which Australians overseas represent and as such enhance Australia's role in the global community.

Many thanks for your help in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Anne MacGregor
North American Coordinator