

The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



Mr Patrick Moss
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Dear Mr Moss,

Statistics on Australian Solicitors in Hong Kong

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 working overseas in particular professions.

We are aware that individuals with Australian law degrees qualify to sit for the Hong Kong Overseas Lawyers Qualification Exam. We were wondering whether the Law Society would be able to provide us with any statistical data concerning Australians who have sat for this examination exam over the years, and those who have passed. We would also be glad if you could supply us with any information you might have as to how many Australian lawyers who have passed the examination currently hold practicing certificates.

We also understand that it is possible for Australian lawyers to be registered with you as "Foreign Lawyers" without sitting the examination. Do you have any statistics available as to the number of foreign lawyers who are Australian?

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 that there are now as many as 800,000 Australians living abroad, with 46,000 of those estimated to be in Hong Kong. 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