

The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



Ms Christine Grice
President
Law Society of New Zealand
PO Box 5041
Wellington 1
New Zealand

Fax 011 64 49151285

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Dear Ms Grice,

Statistics on Australian Lawyers in New Zealand

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 can practise in New Zealand without great difficulty. We were wondering whether the Law Society would be able to provide us with any statistical data concerning Australians who currently hold practicing certificates in New Zealand.

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 52,000 of those estimated to be in New Zealand. 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