

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA. ACT 2600

We are Australian citizens resident in Australia.

We have become aware that a New Citizenship Bill is before the parliament. In this bill it will exclude expat Australians - or they thought they were Australians, who left these shores prior to 1974 unaware they needed to apply for what was then called naturalisation as they arrived as small children with their parents. I did not know they weren't Australian citizens either. Following the second World War there were many UK folk who came and made a great contribution to our country along with many from Europe. These young folk grew up here and along with those born here were required to register and did their National Service etc. It is reasonable for them to have assumed they were therefore Australian citizens. We have become aware they were required to register prior to 1970 and we understand the then Immigration Minister, Phillip Lynch, acknowledged that there was much confusion about the status of Immigrants from the UK. Less than one percent knowing about the need to register. To us it seems an anomaly that they are not being included in this Bill.

We would appreciate that the position of these folk be reconsidered and included in the Citizenship Bill 2005.

Yours faithfully

Ruth & Robert Innes.