

Roger B. Cook

June 27, 2007

Standing Committee on  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs,  
The Senate  
Canberra ACT

Dear Committee:

Submission re Citizenship Test

I write to applaud the idea of a Citizenship Test and offer a few suggested requirements for what applicants should be tested on before citizenship is conferred. In general, as an old Australian, it seems to me that newcomers should only be granted this privilege if they understand—as a minimum—the following:-

1. Citizenship implies duties as well as rights, specifically the
  - requirement to vote at federal, state and municipal elections;
  - willingness to serve on juries when called to do so;
  - duty to help defend the nation if physically able, when called upon.
2. English is the common language, and citizens must be able to speak or at least read it.
3. Government is based on a federal system, whereby each Australian citizen who lives in a state is also a citizen of that state.
4. Thus a citizen needs to obey the laws of both State and Commonwealth parliaments.
5. The historical and current principal religion is Christianity, which has various forms and is voluntary but is an integral part of the Australian community.
6. The principal teaching of Christianity is the Golden Rule—Treat other people as you would like to be treated.
7. The Commonwealth levies income tax on income earners: it must be paid.
8. Motor vehicle drivers may only drive on the roads if they have passed <sup>a</sup> state or territory licence test, and carry a valid licence.
9. While Australians are tolerant of other cultures' customs, our laws over-ride foreign customs.
10. Our monarch is The Queen who is also head of the British Commonwealth.

*Yours faithfully,*