



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL

REFERENCES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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1 October 2004

Senator the Hon Paul Calvert
President of the Senate

INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIAN EXPATRIATES

INTERIM REPORT

Pursuant to Senate Standing Order 38(7), I present to you the interim report of the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee on Australian Expatriates.

On 16 October 2003, the Senate referred the following terms of reference to the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee for inquiry and report by 1 September 2004:

- (a) the extent of the Australian diaspora;
- (b) the variety of factors driving more Australians to live overseas;
- (c) the costs, benefits and opportunities presented by the phenomenon;
- (d) the needs and concerns of overseas Australians;
- (e) the measures taken by other comparable countries to respond to the needs of their expatriates; and
- (f) ways in which Australia could better use its expatriates to promote our economic, social and cultural interests.

On 23 June 2004, the Senate agreed to extend the reporting date for this inquiry to 5 October 2004.

The Committee has received submissions from 677 organisations and individuals. Public hearings were held in Sydney on 27 July 2004, Melbourne on 28 July 2004, and Canberra on 29 July 2004 and 4 August 2004.

Due to the prorogation of Parliament and the need to thoroughly consider the evidence it has received in order to finalise its recommendations, the Committee intends to table its final report as soon as practicable.

Senator the Hon Nick Bolkus
Chair