

# The Southern Cross Group

*Promoting Mobility in the Global Community*



Ms Louise Gell  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Room S1.61, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

***By Airmail***

11 March 2004

Dear Louise

## **Inquiry into Australian Expatriates**

By way of background to the SCG's primary submission to the abovementioned Inquiry, for ease of reference I now enclose hard copies of various submissions the Southern Cross Group has made to previous government inquiries and to other bodies over the last two years.

## **Submission to National Interest Inquiry August 2003**

On page 121 of our primary submission to the current Inquiry, we refer to the SCG's submission to the *National Interest White Paper Inquiry* in footnote 103. We draw your attention to the fact that a number of matters, including the issue of bilateral drivers licence agreements, passport and notarial services, and DFAT brochures are discussed in greater detail in this August 2003 document than in our primary submission to the current Inquiry.

## **Submissions to the JSCEM Inquiry into the 2001 Election**

On pages 106 to 117 of our primary submission to the current Inquiry, we discuss voting rights and refer to a number of submissions made by the SCG to the JSCEM during the period July 2002 to May 2003. A complete set of SCG submissions to that Inquiry as well a relevant Hansard extract is enclosed.

## **Australian of the Year Awards**

We also enclose our submission to the National Australia Day Council (NADC) of September 2002 regarding the exclusion of Australians "principally resident overseas" from the Australian of the Year Awards and including our proposal that a new Expatriate Australian of the Year award be established. The responses we received from the NADC in November 2002 and April 2003 as well as a further letter from the SCG to the Prime Minister in late 2002 are attached. The "principally resident" requirement was removed for the 2004 Australian of the Year Awards, but we continue to work for the establishment of an Expat Australian of the Year Award by the NADC.

## **Submission to UK Home Office on Working Holiday Visas of August 2002**

Finally, we have mentioned working holiday visas in a number of contexts in our primary submission to the current Inquiry. We enclose a submission which the SCG made to the British Home Office in August 2002 when the UK was consulting on proposed changes to its working holidaymaker scheme. Approximately 20,000 young Australians enter the UK each year to start a two-year working holiday. The submission was prepared after consultation with SCG e-bulletin subscribers world-wide. Changes to UK working holiday visa rules were announced in mid 2003, and are detailed on our website.

Kind regards,

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Southern Cross Group Co-founder

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