

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2017 (“the Bill”)

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the above proposed Bill. I appreciate that participation in democracy is one of the great freedoms provided by Australian citizenship.

I believe the following are the main issues with the proposed Bill:

1. It is retrospective – this is against the most basic rule of Roman law “lex retro non agit” which Australian democracy is based on.
2. It’s against common sense – people that are already granted Permanent Residency under the Bill would have to prove again that they are worthy of the privilege. By definition, everybody who is affected by this is a person who the government already approved to live here permanently. If there is a national security issue with these people, including myself, then why we have been given the right to reside in Australia permanently.
3. The changes potentially exclude any prospective citizens whose English isn't yet as good as it is required to gain undergraduate entry to most Australian universities, which is a struggle to a lot of “real” Australians.

I strongly believe that the Bill is unfair, unjust and seeks to prevent a whole class of people who live here permanently from ever becoming citizens. This bill may potentially destroy social cohesion by isolating people who have lived here for years by delaying their path to citizenship.

Yours faithfully,