



14 August 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal
and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

**Inquiry into the Australian Citizenship Amendment
(Citizenship Test Review and Other Measures) Bill 2009**

I wish to express my deep concern at the proposed amendments to the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*, in particular an exemption for those who have allegedly been tortured and suffered trauma prior to coming to Australia.

I am not convinced that someone who is able to travel to and live in Australia cannot learn English, or cannot understand the nature of the application, and is not capable of demonstrating an adequate knowledge of Australia and the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship at the time of the application or at the time of the test. If the applicant cannot meet the criteria, they should not be allowed to become an Australian citizen until they can meet the criteria.

There must also be tight safeguards for people under the age of 18 becoming Australian citizens. We have seen recently what can happen if the Government allows people in who can become citizens but who are not committed to the responsibility and privilege of being a citizen.

These proposed amendments should be rejected and the Act amended to make the application process and test more rigorous and less open to abuse and misuse.

Yours sincerely

Bob Such MP JP
Member for Fisher