

Hello,

I would like to draw the Inquiry's attention to a piece that I wrote for the Lowy Interpreter on how Section 44(i), and the recent saga surrounding it - undermines the Parliament as a reflection of Australia's civil society, and inhibits our national interests -

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australia-citizenship-saga-projects-insular-image>

The dissuading of people from running for Parliament should be an important consideration. This is not just a case of people "getting their paperwork in order". If I was a dual citizen there would be no way I would limit the opportunities of any children I may have by giving up a second passport. And I suspect many people would also believe this is an opportunity cost too great.

This concept is important not just on an individual level (the advantages of living and working in another country), but Australia requires people with an intimate knowledge of other countries. If the sentiment created out of this saga* pushes people to renounce any other citizenships (even if they have no desire to run for Parliament) then it will have done a great disservice to our national capabilities.

*concepts of national identity and national loyalty remain important factors to consider. The saga has undermined the country's liberal and pluralist principles.

I would recommend the Inquiry takes a strong look at how Canada understands itself and creates structures to deal with its internal make up. Australia is lagging in this regard. You require political scientists from philosophical, comparative politics, and international relations backgrounds engaged in this Inquiry.

Thank you

Grant.

P.S A larger, more exploratory look at the issue can be found [here](#) (the Lowy piece was a stripped down version).