

**From: Mark Galley**  
Perth  
WA  
Australia

16th January 2006

**To: Committee Secretary**  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the Australian Citizenship (Transitionals and Consequentials) Bill 2005.

I am a Permanent Resident counting down my last 270 days before I can apply for citizenship. I have set up business and contribute to the economy and await eagerly my opportunity to be part of the Australian Family.

I know many Permanent Residents in a similar position, who are upset about the proposal to increase the wait from permanent residency to citizenship from two to three years.

We have worked hard to secure our Permanent Residency, moved family and finances, have committed ourselves to making a positive contribution and have made Australia our new home. To 'move the goal posts' when we are already in the country seems unfair, and "unAustralian".

The Bill seems a generally well conceived piece of legislation. However we feel that this should NOT be applied retrospectively and respectfully request that you consider this part of the Bill be applied only to new recipients of permanent residency visas.

An example of the same situation is found in New Zealand where their change in legislation affected new migrants and not existing residents ( [http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg\\_URL/Services-Citizenship-General-Requirements-for-a-Grant-of-New-Zealand-Citizenship?OpenDocument](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Citizenship-General-Requirements-for-a-Grant-of-New-Zealand-Citizenship?OpenDocument) ). This allowed everyone to continue with their plans, safe in the knowledge that their Government has their best interests at heart.

Again thank you for taking the time to read my email and considering my submission.

Yours faithfully

Mark Galley  
Citizen in waiting