

Sent: Tuesday, 26 June 2007 4:59 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Attn: Jackie Morris..

Dear Jackie,

I understand through my contact with the Southern Cross Action Group that there is to be a senate inquiry into a bill for the "Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Testing) Bill 2007". I would like to submit my particular situation as a former permanent Australian resident to you for your consideration. Also for you to use my case to add weight to the cause for former residents who are unable to return to what we call home due to lengthy absence and current migration criteria.

Earlier this year and after 14 years absence, I made an application to Australia House for a residents return visa which was declined on reasons of excessive absence. I made the application on the basis of close family ties, formative years in Australia and compelling absence and I did have the opportunity to appeal the decision. I considered long and hard as to whether to put my parents through the appeal procedure and as to whether it would succeed. I looked on lots of websites and saw lots of case histories of similar former residents who were declined on appeal and rightly or wrongly concluded that in all likelihood my appeal would also fail. Attached to this email is a word document that I included with my visa application for reasons of compelling absence. Rather than reiterate my personal circumstances in this email, my story is contained in the word document. It does go into some detail of my upbringing and life in Australia and some may not be relevant to the new act.

Essentially I gave up what I consider to be home for my wife and her family. Our relationship has tested both our families and torn me away from mine. Having been brought up in Australia since the age of 7 my outlook to life is uniquely Australian and my allegiance will always be to Australia. I have no sense of loyalty to England and I do feel isolated in this country as I have no commonality of upbringing with anyone here. Australia has made me who I am today and I would gladly take the oath of allegiance to Australia and give up my British nationality. Having lived, been educated, worked, paid taxes for 25 years in Australia, I believe qualifies me to be considered as an Australian. The only thing that disqualifies me from being an outright Australian is the first seven years of my life....unfortunately, I had no control over that.

I do hope my story helps the proposed act and does help others who are in a similar situation to me, to be able to 'come home'.

This email and the attached word document are issued as a public document and I agree to its publication. Please confirm that these documents are acceptable in this format.

Yours Faithfully

Mr 'L B'