

From: Steven Bateman  
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2007 10:26 AM  
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
Subject: Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Testing)

To: Committee Secretary, Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

My submission is in regard to the changes to Subsection 21(2) in particular in regard to:

- (e) possesses a basic knowledge of the English language; and
- (f) has an adequate knowledge of Australia and of the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship; and

Historically many migrants that have come to Australia have had limited English and to deny them citizenship until they can speak English is to diminish the multicultural richness of Australia and doesn't respect the fundamental rights that all people should have. Learning another language when old can be difficult and many Australians have lived here for many years without being able to learn English but still regard themselves as proud Australians.

My concern is particularly in regard to point (f) as it implies that Australia has some superior qualities that other countries and cultures don't have. We should be try to foster increased tolerance and not bring in legislation that will have the opposite effect.

Regards  
Steven Bateman