



SUBMISSION

I am limiting my response to the narrow focus of my own experience. I hope that in the particular there may be general points of use.

Point 1. Many people who stay here do so because their partner is British ie the event is a fallout from that decision.

- I came to England aged twenty-one on a post-graduate scholarship from my University. A fourth generation Australian, I had not planned to leave, but having been awarded the scholarship I happily went to Oxford, intending to return to Australia and continue my academic career. On completion of my post-graduate degree I got married, to an Englishman. Suddenly, my future was in England.

Point 2. The trickle down effects of a continuing professional commitment to Australia are not necessarily easily measured, or immediately visible.

- Concerned that I was not repaying my country for the investment in my scholarship I recompensed in the only way I could: by directing as much of my work as possible towards Australia. For me, as a writer, that meant either writing books about Australian subjects, or publishing editions of my books in Australia. Although over the years I have relaxed about this issue I continue to include Australia/aspects of Australia wherever relevant in my writing.

Point 3. Children born and brought up in the UK with dual Australian/British nationality are not generally reckoned as part of Australia's resource, or a benefit of the diaspora. They are.

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- Our three children have Australian nationality as well as British. Australia has gained three citizens whose birth, health, and education has cost Australia nothing. My sister also married an Englishman. Between us our seven children have seven first degrees, two post-graduate degrees, four sets of post-graduate qualifications.

Point 4. Expatriot Australians can put an important percentage of their income into Australia in preference to competing locations. Their loyalty boosts airline bookings, and all aspects of tourist and retail trade.

- My continuing committment to Australia has resulted in
- family holidays being spent in Australia rather than other potential destinations.
- As independent adults my children have all chosen to continue to holiday in Australia.
- The recent purchase of a holiday house in Australia. I estimate that I and my husband have flown to Australia around forty times. Our children up to ten times each.

Point 5. Partners of expatriot Australians can be drawn positively into the Australian network.

- As a result of my involvement in and committment to Australia my husband has a real interest in and affection for Australia, extending his professional interests to Australia where he can, including Australia and Australians in his terms of reference.

Point 6. 'Invisible' Australians have many ways of promoting Australia's social and cultural interests.

Expatriot Australians who live as an integral part of the English social context have many opportunities to contribute to an understanding of Australia. It's informal, unoffical, but significant.

Thank you



Meredith Hooper