

Defining Australian citizenship - selected documents

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Australian Citizenship in a Changing Nation and World

Through a detailed examination of the colonial origins of the laws and values informing contemporary Australian citizenship this chapter will shed new light on the legal, historical and jurisprudential dimensions of the current debate over citizenship and language tests.

Citizenship and Language Tests in Australia: Issues of Law and History

During our first century as a nation, citizenship—for a majority of Australians—has meant the enjoyment of progressive political, social, economic and legal rights. Like the citizens of all the countries comprising the British Commonwealth, Australian citizens remained British subjects, but from the proclamation of the Act on 26 January 1949, were recognised also as citizens of their own country.

Historical analogies: citizenship policy in ‘assimilationist Australia’

Yet many groups in our society have been denied the usual benefits of citizenship, including: the vote; equality before the law; freedom of speech, religion and movement; health care; education and a minimum wage. At the conference it was agreed by the self-governing nations of the Commonwealth that each nation would be free to define its own citizenship.

Defining Australian Citizenship, Brian Galligan, John Chesterman — Melbourne University Publishing

Description This document is in the form of a booklet, plain in appearance, with the Commonwealth Coat of Arms on the cover. The Federal Council, set up by some of the Australian colonies before Federation to advance issues of joint interest, had in 1897 drafted an Australasian Naturalisation Act enabling Europeans naturalised in any colony to have this status in every other colony.

Citizenship and Language Tests in Australia: Issues of Law and History

As an effect, they generally relied on typically the one which had been offered to typically the British nationals. Significance This document introduced the principle of citizenship for Australians as belonging to Australia, rather than to Britain.

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