

Australian Deputy PM disqualified over dual citizenship

29th October, 2017



Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce has been disqualified from his governmental position because he held dual citizenship when he was elected. He was one of five politicians who were deemed as being incorrectly elected because they held two passports and were thus dual citizens. They were ineligible because they were a "subject or citizen of a foreign power". Australia's constitution prohibits dual nationals from being elected. Mr Joyce's departure has put pressure on Australia's ruling National Party*, which now has just 75 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives. Mr Joyce could return to office by running in a by-election after he renounced his New Zealand citizenship in August.

Mr Joyce accepted the court's decision, which he said typified the democratic values of Australia. He said: "I respect the verdict of the court. We live in a marvelous democracy. With all the checks and balances, it has given us all the freedoms we see. I thank the court for their deliberations." He added: "The decision of the court today is clearly not the outcome we were hoping for, but the business of government goes on." Many Australians believe the dual citizenship laws should be changed. The latest census in Australia shows that 28 per cent of Australians were born overseas. Many more have a family history going back generations that would entitle them to claim dual citizenship.

*CORRECTION: Australia's current government is a coalition between the Liberal Party and the National Party. The Prime Minister is Malcolm Turnbull from the Liberal Party. Barnaby Joyce is from the National Party.

Sources: bbc.com / npr.com / reuters.com

Writing

There is no problem with having dual citizenship in any position in life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

disqualified / dual citizenship / politicians / elected / constitution / pressure / office / decision / verdict / democracy / freedoms / outcome / overseas / family history

True / False

- A total of five Australian politicians have been disqualified. T / F
- The Australian constitution forbids dual citizens from being a politician. T / F
- Australia's ruling party has half the seats in the House of Representatives. T / F
- Australia's former deputy leader still has his New Zealand citizenship. T / F
- The former deputy prime minister said the decision was undemocratic. T / F
- The former deputy leader thanked the court that made the decision. T / F
- The article said many Australians don't want citizenship rules to change. T / F
- Over a quarter of Australians were not born in the country. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. disqualified | a. judgment |
| 2. deemed | b. gave up |
| 3. ineligible | c. assert |
| 4. departure | d. considered |
| 5. renounced | e. result |
| 6. typified | f. barred |
| 7. verdict | g. exit |
| 8. outcome | h. ages |
| 9. generations | i. unsuitable |
| 10. claim | j. epitomized |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What would a world without passports be like?
- How much are you a citizen of the world?
- How much of a 'marvelous democracy' is your country?
- What do you know about your family history?
- What do you think of having a world passport?
- What do you think of Australia?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Joyce?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. disqualified from | a. citizen of a foreign power |
| 2. deemed as | b. were hoping for |
| 3. a subject or | c. in a by-election |
| 4. put pressure on | d. decision |
| 5. return to office by running | e. his governmental position |
| 6. Mr Joyce accepted the court's | f. balances |
| 7. typified the democratic | g. Australia's ruling National Party |
| 8. all the checks and | h. generations |
| 9. clearly not the outcome we | i. being incorrectly elected |
| 10. a family history going back | j. values of Australia |

Discussion – Student B

- Are you happy being a citizen of your country?
- What other passport would you like?
- What are the benefits of dual citizenship?
- Should Mr Joyce have been disqualified?
- What is the problem of having dual citizenship?
- Must a leader be born in the country he or she leads?
- What would make you give up your citizenship?
- How much do you like your passport?

Spelling

- He was one of five alioptnsic
- incorrectly cdltee
- They were iilgelbine
- Australia's constitution tsoihripb dual nationals
- Mr Joyce's eetraprdu
- he ncenoudre his New Zealand citizenship
- tydfepii the democratic values
- I respect the cervidt of the court
- The oinisdce of the court today
- not the umoeoct we were hoping for
- a family history going back nrenogiseta
- tltenei them to claim dual citizenship

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. g	5. b
6. j	7. e	8. e	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – The Passport

You think the passport is the best thing about your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the flag, the music or the leaders.

Role B – The Flag

You think the flag is the best thing about your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the passport, the music or the leaders.

Role C – The Music

You think the music is the best thing about your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the flag, the passport or the leaders.

Role D – The Leaders

You think the leaders are the best thing about your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the flag, the music or the passport.

Speaking – My country

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about your country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| • the music | • the passport |
| • the language | • the flag |
| • the history | • the leaders |
| • the capital city | • the food |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.