

**The following information has been provided by:**

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Canada has recognised dual/multi nationalities since the 14th February 1977, and the format is quite straightforward.

Be aware that if a Canadian has taken out, or takes out citizenship of another country after this date it will in no way affect their Canadian citizenship.

The High Commission have the forms and information you just need to call or email me their names and address and the kit will be mailed to you.

When completed send the application to this office to process. We do the initial paperwork here and return any original documents that are sent with the application to the applicant within 10-15 working days.

The application is then sent via diplomatic bag to Nova Scotia for final processing and production of the citizenship card.

People should note that this card, once issued, is good for life. Even though in time it will have an outdated photograph of the person on it, this does not affect its legitimacy in any way.

The processing time in Canada takes approximately 6 months.

If preferred people can go to our website and download the forms etc from the re at [www.canada.org.au](http://www.canada.org.au) then click on their language of choice, then click on Assistance to Canadians on the left hand menu. the scroll down to the heading of CITIZENSHIP.

If anybody has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

The following information sheet may be of interest to people, which covers what I have indicated above and other related info.

### **Information regarding Canadian/DUAL Citizenship.**

A person may be eligible for dual citizenship, having been born outside Canada to a Canadian parent(s) holding a Canadian Birth Certificate or Canadian Certificate of citizenship, and having an Australian or other nationality parent as well. Some people misunderstand this to mean that they would then just have one document (passport, certificate or the like) that shows dual citizenship. However this is not the situation. It in fact gives you the rights and responsibility of the regulations and laws of two countries, but allows you to reside, work and study in either.

You can apply for your/your child's Proof of Canadian Citizenship through your parent/yourself as Canadian parents quite simply. These forms can be sent to you to complete, but you will need to provide full name and address of whom/where you want them sent to and date of birth of the applicant/child.

You send the completed forms to the High Commission in Canberra. Once the application forms for proof of Canadian Citizenship, have been lodged, it takes between 6-9 months for it to be processed in Canada and returned. Once the application has been initially assessed here at mission in Canberra, **in approx 15 working days, your original documents are returned to you.**

Please note that until the person has the citizenship card in their hand they have no rights in Canada. Cannot apply for a Tax number or health cover, cannot work or study without obtaining a visa etc as they are considered a visitor until such time as it has all been processed.

Also be aware that as an Australian citizen, whilst ever Australia is their main place of residence the MUST depart and re-enter Australia on their Australian passport, this is part of their rights and responsibilities as an Australian citizen.

Therefore, with dual citizenship, a person leaving Australia to go to live in Canada, would need to depart Australia on their Australian passport and enter Canada on their Canadian passport, this way they are entering as a resident - not as a visitor. And then when leaving, they depart Canada on their Canadian passport and re-enter Australia on their Australian passport.

However if just visiting Canada for a short time (less than six months each visit) for your information, traveling on an Australian passport, a person can enter Canada without a visa and stay for a period of up to 6 months, but in that time cannot work or study, as they have entered Canada as a visitor. (even though they are a Canadian citizen, as they are using the Australian passport).

We send the Citizenship application off to Citizenship in Nova Scotia Canada via the diplomatic bag. When it is processed it is returned to the High Commission where we check it for any possible errors and then send it out to you by registered mail to the address you provide on the application form. When you have received the citizenship certificate you can then apply for a Canadian passport. It takes approximately 15 working days for the passport to

be issued once the completed applications have been received, your original documents are returned at this time.