

I appreciate this opportunity to add my voice, and my request for restoration of my Australian citizenship.

In 1975 I married the American Consul to Queensland and the NT, and we left Brisbane soon after, taking with us my 5 year old son by an earlier marriage.

My (then) husband was variously elevated to high level positions, including becoming the US ambassador to Zambia, and later, an Assistant Secretary of State in Washington. During this time I gave birth to a daughter who was, I regret, not registered as an Australian but could and should have been. That oversight is, of course mine, though I was not aware at the time it could be done despite being married to a diplomat. He apparently wasn't aware of it either or simply didn't think about it. I also suppose that I assumed that if I was Australian when she was born, she would automatically be.

In 1978 when husband Paul Hare was posted to Israel as #2 at the US embassy, he requested that I take out US citizenship for a variety of reasons entirely to do with his career. After much deliberation, I agreed and the process was effected very rapidly. At the time, inexplicably, my son was left off the application, hence his remaining an Australian (to this day).

I divorced Paul Hare in 1989 and perhaps at that time, should have applied for restoration of my Australian citizenship.

I was in Australia in September/October of last year (2005), fell in love with the place of my birth, decided to apply for reinstatement of my citizenship, and went about gathering certificates and necessary documentation. At the same time, my 27 year old daughter (now completing her MBA) who had only visited Australia as a small child, decided she wanted to move there when she's finished her studies. To my amazement she said it was the first place she actually felt she "fitted in."

If I could get my citizenship back, and at the same time, create eligibility for Jessica it would make us both incredibly happy. I've always been proud to be an Australian, and would like once again to say "I'm Australian" rather than "I was born in Australia." My daughter wants that too.

I used to work for the Channel Seven network, and with Queensland Newspapers and at Radio 4BC. After leaving Australia I maintained media associations, working as a stringer for a Sydney radio station, and later for ABC Brisbane (radio) and as a freelance producer for Channel Nine (Brisbane) and Beyond Productions. Even now I still do the occasional radio report. I have loads of friends in Australia, and some family, and have visited several times since I left though until last year, not since my mother passed away. But I do keep in touch with people I went to school with, worked with and so on (in fact we have people I've known for 40 years arriving from the Hunter Valley to visit tomorrow), and there are several respected and well known Australians who will vouch for me -- and for Jessica.

I would appreciate some advice on how best to apply for restoration of my citizenship and the acquisition of citizenship for my daughter, and will look forward to having some feedback from you.

With thanks, and good luck with the petition.

Robbie Anna Hare
Born: Scone, NSW
Currently living in Israel