

Dr Saviour & Dr Salvina Borg MD

03.01.06

**Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to introduce our case to you and also introduce our children, who are attaching their own letters. After a painstaking long wait, my husband is very close to regaining his Australian citizenship. Throughout our twenty years of marriage, I have always given him my support and also took the initiative to attempt any possibility of reclaiming citizenship. Our two children were anxiously waiting for this to happen and eagerly followed all the developments since we started corresponding with The Southern Cross Group.

We were overjoyed with the result but, at the same time, very disappointed that the children do not inherit their father's birth right. It even seems stranger that we were told that any future children would automatically have Australian citizenship. We find this discriminatory in the same family and irrational. Moreover it seems that the general impression is that this generation of children is 'old': most couples involved have just had their first or second baby, our own children are just 11 and 14 years old, and I must say, very promising young adults of tomorrow! Our relatives, who make up quite a number, were very dismayed by recent comments as regards this situation, and found this to be highly discriminatory against this generation of Maltese children.

Enclosed you will find the opinion of our children, which they have written on their own.

I hope that members of the Committee will at least have the time to read their opinion and reconsider their decision.

Yours faithfully,



Dr S. Borg MD

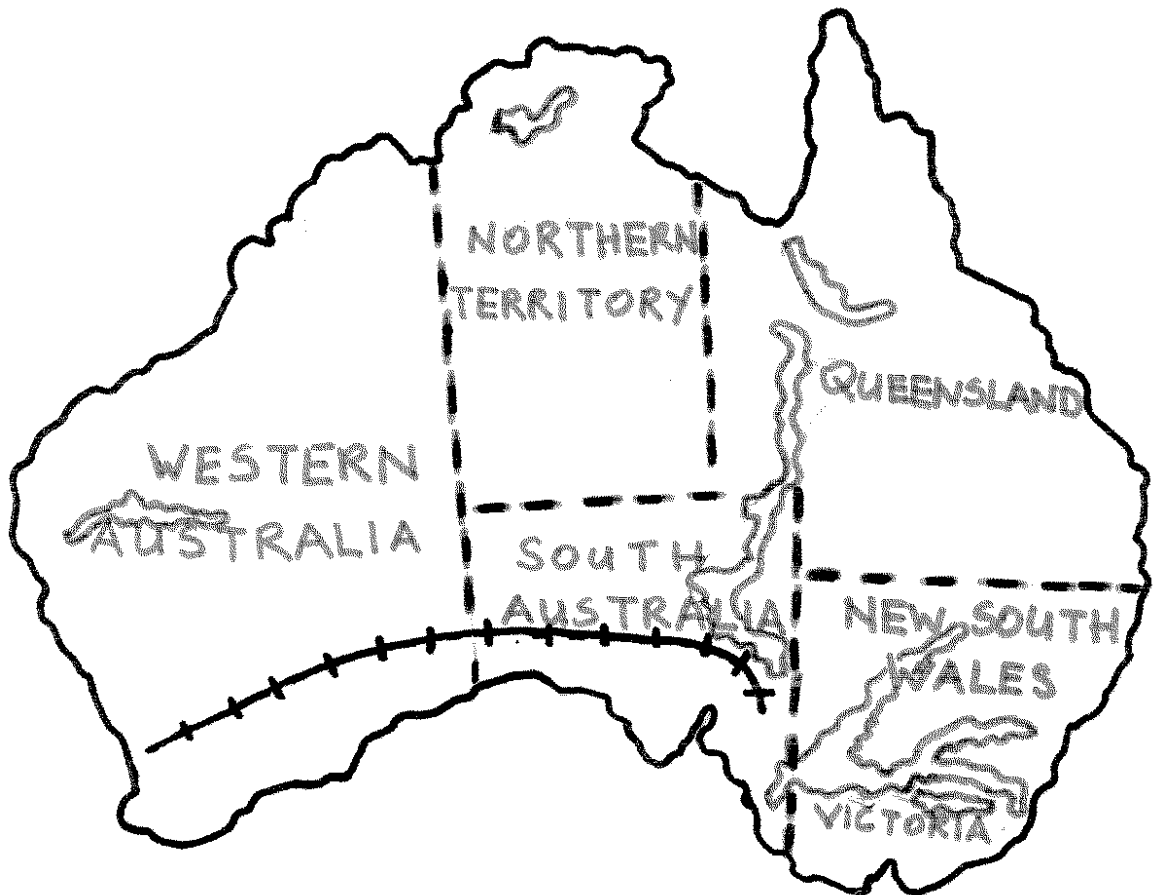
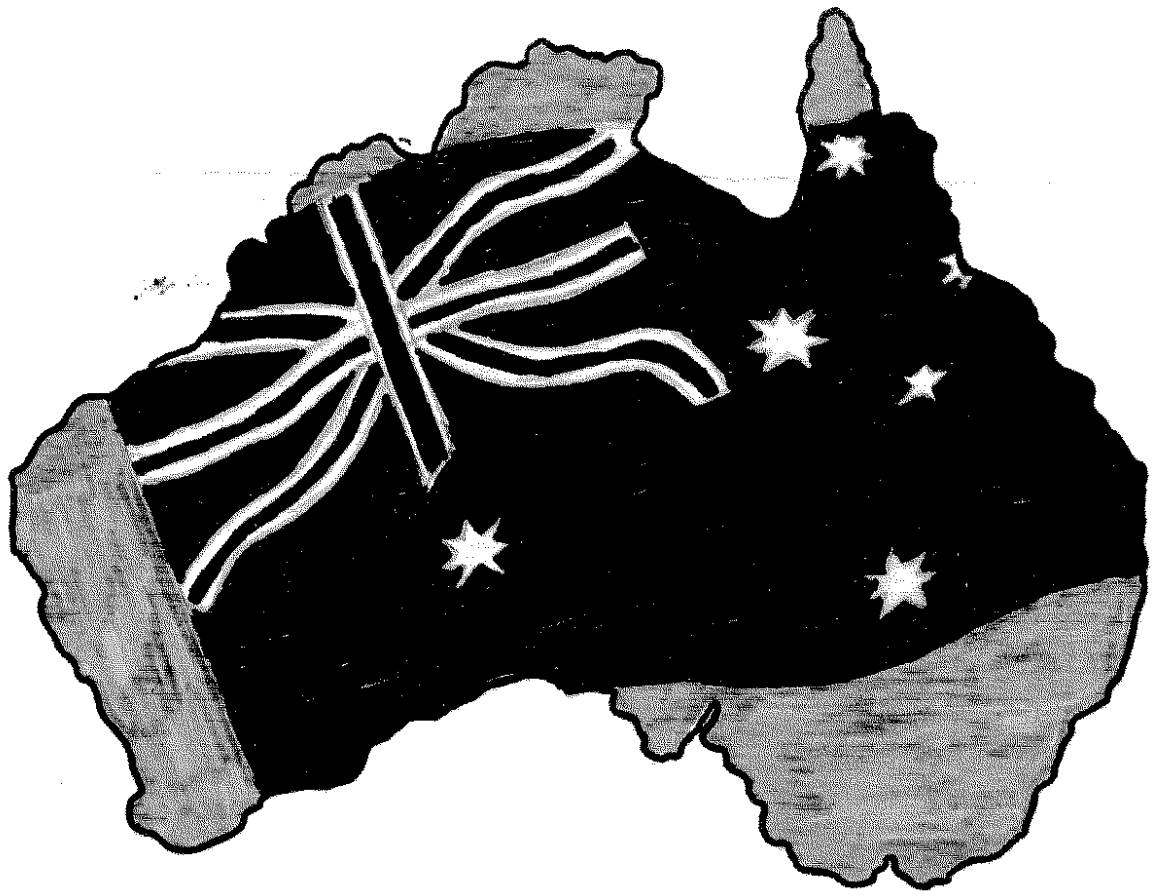
I am Christine Borg. I am 14 years old, and ever since I can remember, I have always heard stories about Australia from my father. He was born there, went to school there and spent most of his childhood and early teens there. I think he feels he was uprooted when his parents moved back to Malta, especially as he was on the point of going into High School there. I naturally always assumed that he was Australian by birth and I was very puzzled and disappointed when one day he explained the facts of the situation. Now that Dad will be getting his Australian identity back, I am once again disappointed and baffled that this citizenship does not pass on to me and my brother. My father always felt as if he never really belonged here and somehow I seem to share that feeling as well.

I am nearly finished from High School locally and already aspire to further my studies away from the island. As I already feel bound to Australia, I see it as quite a possible destination and I am especially encouraged by seeing some of our local friends who have managed to come there and get university degrees there, to mention one girl from Mellieħa who has graduated and is presently working there in a hospital as a psychologist. Speaking for myself I am a promising student at school: I speak English fluently and I am very good at this subject. I also study French, Italian and of course, the Maltese language, and I am also venturing a little Spanish on my own. I am good at most sports and have been on the School football team for four years running. I am also a good hand at art. I take piano lessons and I can sing and dance too and also

take part in school plays. I have chosen to major in Science subjects, with a view to following my parents' footsteps in Medicine. Not quite what they do though - they are family practitioners, whereas I would prefer to work in one particular field, probably dermatology. This is what I have in mind so far, but I am keeping all my other options open. All in all, I think I could make Australia proud to have me as a citizen. Besides, I feel like I have known Australia all my life: from my father I have learnt about its history, geography and colloquialisms. I have learnt about Sydney, the Royal Opera House, Paramatta, the Blue Mountains, not to mention other interesting places, such as the Jenolan Caves, which are absolutely breath-taking.

From Malta, the most beautiful experiences I can take are our warm Mediterranean characteristics and our amazing history and interesting places, such as St. John's Co-Cathedral with its famous painting of the beheading of St. John by Caravaggio, Mdina, the old medieval city, the Hypogeum and the Imnajdra temples which are famous for the mysterious phenomenon of the equinoxes.

I feel that I have a lot to offer in my future and the future may have a lot to offer me. By being an Australian however, I will not be limited by the size of a small Island, which although rich in history, has its limitations. Likewise, who knows the future? I may be in a position to offer a lot to Australia when I reach my goals. For me this would be a wish come true. I would be proud and honoured to be an Australian, so please help me to help Australia.







HI MATES!
MY NAME IS
JOEY. I COME
FROM THE
AUSTRALIAN
OUTBACK!

CRICKET.



I am Stephen Borg, an 11 year-old boy. At last, my father, who was born in Australia, will be an Australian citizen again. I also feel that I am an Australian citizen because my father is, and he told us about its history, its geography and the aborigines. Australia will benefit from me, maybe as a pilot, because I love planes or, as a medical doctor for which I will get help from my parents, as fortunately they are both doctors.

Experiences I can take to Australia are the places I went to, the Maltese language, our culture, the geography, history, and the good schools around Malta.

In particular I could pass on my experiences from my school, St. Edwards's College, one of the top schools, if not the best on the island. My father chose it especially for me, as it ~~was~~ very similar to the one he used to attend in Australia. He is always talking about it. Besides being a very good school we also have a lot of sports, including cricket.

In Australia, I would gain more knowledge about the new animals I would see, the history and how Australians live. I would be very proud to be a citizen of Australia and I would make that country and my parents proud of me. I would feel very disappointed if this does not happen, as we have always felt strong ties with Australia and we often get relatives visiting us from there. Australia would lose out on my knowledge, and my future job and our kindness with other people.

