

**To Jackie Morris,
Committee Secretary
Legal & Constitutional Committee (Sen)**

Submission to the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Testing) Bill 2007"

My name is Diane Agar and my story is as follows. I was born in England in 1958. My parents migrated to Australia in 1962 when I was four and my brother was 1 year old. We settled in the Barossa Valley South Australia, where my two sisters were born. I attended both primary and high school in Australia. I left school at the age of 16. I then went on to obtain my Enrolled Nurse qualification in South Australia.

When I was 20, my parents and 3 siblings, 2 of who are Australian born decided to move back to England. I did not go with them as I was living away from home and had my own life now. It wasn't too long before I missed my family especially my 2 sisters. I decided to come over to England to see them when I was 21. Whilst I was in England I met someone and formed a relationship and had 1 son, who is now 22. My sisters decided to move back to Australia in their early 20's. I had always intended to move back when I could financially keep myself and would not be a burden on anyone.

When this time came I found that I could not return as I was 45 years of age. At 45 I was too old. I never thought there would be any restrictions on my returning to Australia. I was never made aware of any restrictions in returning to Australia, and I never looked into it earlier as I grew up in Australia and my sisters are Australian, I was Australian in my mind.

When I did look into returning my position was that I could financially support myself and my son was completing his degree at University. My employment record is excellent. I grew up in Australia and believed myself to be Australian and my two sisters are Australian born I never thought I would not be able to return home.

I was devastated, as I now could never be with the only close family I have, my 2 sisters. I am now 48 and still cannot understand why I cannot return. In my mind I am Australian. Spending all my younger life and completing my education in Australia. I have always believed I was Australian, it was all I knew. I grew up learning and living the traditions and values of Australia. Although I have spent time in England my home is and always will be Australia.

Diane Agar