

22 January 2004

**The Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional  
References Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Elaine Angela Delmar. I was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1974, in Brisbane Australia. My parents are both Maltese and emigrated to Australia in 1970. In March 1982, my parents decided to return to Malta due to my dad's accident at work in 1976, which left him unable to work.

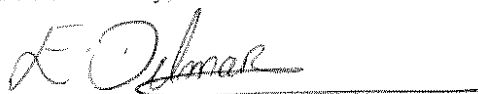
When I turned 18, I received a letter from the Maltese Government, where I was requested to choose between the Australian Citizenship and Maltese Citizenship. Maltese Citizenship Law at that time did not allow dual citizenship until amended on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2000. Therefore I had no choice but to renounce my Australian Citizenship. I found this situation very unfair, but knowing about difficulties I could experience regarding employment, purchase of property and social services if I had kept my Australian Citizenship, I was left with no other choice and against my will I had to renounce my Australian Citizenship.

I still consider myself an Australian. I was born in Australia, and spent part of my childhood in Australia. I was very disappointed when I heard that on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002, the Australian Law was amended, stating that all those who lost their Australian Citizenship could apply to resume their Australian Citizenship, but only for those whose age was not over 25. Unfortunately again I was a victim of this amendment because I turn 30 this coming June. I really can't understand why the age of 25 is essential. What's the difference between a person who is 25 and a person who is 30, in my case? The point is that both are born in Australia, and who is born in Australia is Australian. I feel that again myself, and a lot of others have been discriminated by such a law.

Lately, my family and I have been planning on emigrating. But it seems that it would be very difficult if we decided to come to Australia. I hope that something can be done and finally get back what was ours by right and has been denied.

I would like to thank you for your patience and kind attention to this letter, and hope that your work of your Committee in this Inquiry, will result in our favour.

Yours faithfully,



Elaine Angela Delmar.