



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

Dear Sir,

I was born in Melbourne in Australia on 24th September 1963. My father and mother migrated to Australia in the years 1952-53 (circa). As a child I enjoyed Australian citizenship. When I was 15 years of age I came to Malta. When I was 19 years I was asked to declare whether I still wanted Australian citizenship, but I opted to keep Maltese Citizenship due to have access to employment in Malta. So I renounced Australian citizenship only because I was compelled in my circumstances. It made me unhappy to lose Australian citizenship.

I consider Australian citizenship to be my right. Besides being born there, I still have close ties with Australia, in fact my father and my mother, reside in Melbourne; four brothers (one in Queensland and three in Melbourne) and one sister residing in Melbourne. (See addresses on the back of this letter).

According to the Australian Citizenship Act 1948, there is a provision whereby those who lost citizenship under the now repealed Section 17 may resume their lost citizenship. It should be acknowledged that being born there affords me to apply for a dual citizenship. I was one of those victims who had to choose a Maltese citizenship just for practical reasons without any intention of repealing Australian citizenship.

I note that Australian law changed with effect from 1 July 2002 to allow people who renounced their Australian citizenship up to the age of 25 years, although this provision does not help me because I was over 25 years on 1 July.

I consider myself that while on one hand I'm not formally an Australian citizen, on the other hand I am an integral part of Australia's now significant diaspora.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Caruana".

Elizabeth Caruana