



To: The Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House
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Date: 6th February 2004

Submission to Inquiry into Australian Expatriates.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Steven Edgar Chetcuti. I was born on the 22nd July 1976 at Essendon and District Hospital in Mooneeponds, Victoria Australia. When I was 10 months old my parents had to return to Malta. Since I grew up in Malta I had no choice but to change my citizenship as I wouldn't have been able to get a work permit as well as participate in the local welfare system i.e. National Insurance, health system, passport, Education system etc beyond my 19th birthday. If I had a choice I would have preferred to hang on to my Australian citizenship as, although I came to Malta not out of my own choice, I shall hold a special feeling to my country of birth. I also have many relatives living in Australia, mainly in Melbourne, Sydney and also as far north as Mackay. It is my ultimate dream that one day I'll visit them all but I would prefer to go back to my roots as an Australian citizen not merely on a tourist visa. Fortunately my father always made sure to keep me informed about their three-year stay, my birth and bringing up in Australia. Also, now that I run a successful Oriental Rug business in Malta, I might need Australian citizenship to facilitate prospective business deals, and possible financial investment in my country of birth.

In short I feel a part of Australia. Even during sporting events, when Australia is involved, be it Olympics, Australian open, Rugby world cup, football, etc, I take more than particular interest by following Australia's progress. I also support Victoria's Essendon Australian Rules football team.

Through your committee I see a flicker of hope that one day my dream of setting back my Australian citizenship will be fulfilled.

Following this letter you will find all the documents to prove the authenticity of my case. Hoping to hearing from you very soon,

Yours faithfully



Steven Edgar Chetcuti.