



28/1/04.

To: the secretary
Senate legal and constitutional
references committee.

Dear Sir/madam,

I was born in Melbourne, Australia on the 4-1-77. My mother migrated to Australia from Malta on the 6th March 1973. As a child I enjoyed dual citizenship, I was Australian by birth under Australian law and Maltese by descent under Maltese law.

On the 30th of July 1990 when I was 13 yrs old my family moved back to Malta.

Under Maltese citizenship law I was required to decide between Maltese and Australian citizenship between my 18th and 19th birthdays. Prior to amendments which took effect on 10 February 2000 Maltese citizenship law did not allow dual citizenship in adulthood.

I opted to keep my Maltese citizenship in adulthood due to the fact that life in Malta for me, without Maltese citizenship would have been very difficult.

I was unhappy about forfeiting my Australian citizenship, because I was born in Australia, and still consider myself to be 'Australian' today, even if I am not legally an Australian citizen.

Most of my relatives and friends still live in Australia, and we keep in touch very often.

This year I am also planning on coming to Australia for a holiday with my husband, to visit friends and family.

I was told that Australian law changed with effect from 1st July 2002 to allow people who renounced their Australian citizenship in order to retain another citizenship to apply to resume their Australian citizenship up to the age of 25 years. However this provision does not assist me, because I was ~~at~~ the age of 25 on 2 July 2002 by a couple of months.

Regardless of the fact that I am not formally Australian citizen, I consider myself to be an integral part of Australia's now significant diaspora. Many thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the work of your committee to this inquiry.

Many thanks
yours

Faithfully

Kylie Fidal