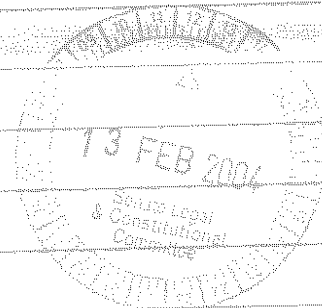Mrs Veronica Polidano neè Buhagiar

MALTA

3-2-04

Submission to inquiry into Australian Expatriates

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was born in footscray, Melbourne in Australia, on 11th April 1975. My father migrated to Australia in Oct. 1954 and my mother in 1958.

As a child I enjoyed dual citizenship. I was Australian by birth and maltese by descent under maltese law.

In 1978 when I was three years old, my family moved back to Malta.

When I was eighteen I had to decide to become a maltese citizen. first thing was access to employment and to benefit from social security and when in need of hospital etc

I feel that australian citizenship is my birth right cause I was born there. I still mantain close ties with Australia in the following ways.
I have three aunts/uncles
Thirteen cousins and most of them have kids.

When the law changed from 1 July 2002. I wasn't lucky enough cause I was older than 25 yrs. So still I couldn't get back what I lost.

I hope that this time we will have the opportunity to gain back Australian citizenship and become dual citizens. Thanks for helping us all who had to loose their citizen for important things in life.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Veronica Polidano.