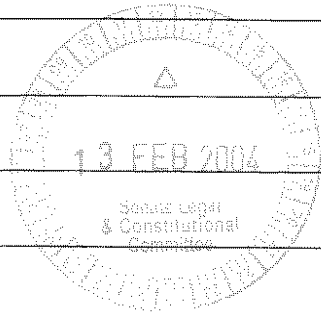


Daniela Michelle Calleja

28/01/04



DEAR SIR/MADAM,

I was born in FAIRFIELD SYDNEY in AUSTRALIA on 22-10-73. My parents migrated from MALTA in 1973, as a child I enjoyed dual citizenship, I was Australian by birth under Australian law and Maltese by descent under Maltese law. In 1975, when I was 2 years old, my family moved back to Malta.

Under Maltese citizen law I was required to decide between Maltese and Australian citizen between my 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> birthday because Maltese citizen law did not allow dual citizen in adulthood and I was required by the Maltese authorities to present documentary evidence that I had formally renounced my Australian citizenship under Australian law.

I was very unhappy about forfeiting my Australian citizenship, because I was born in Australia and still consider myself to be Australian even though I am not legally an Australian citizen, and this is my birth right because I was born Australian and I still maintain close ties with Australia.

I have close relatives from my mother's side and even my father's.

And Australian-born Maltese are being discriminated against under Australian law simply because Maltese law at the time required a section 18 renunciation when the citizenship laws of other countries did not, and from 1st July 2002 Australian law changed 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, and however this does not assist me, because I was over the age of 25 on 1st July 2002.

Many thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the work of your Committee in this inquiry.

Your faithfully  
Daniela Calleja