



John Schembri

To: The Secretary  
Senate Legal And Constitutional Reference Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA  
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Date: 26/01/2004

Dear Sir/Madam

I was born in Carlton/Melbourne in Australia on the 27/02/1966

My father migrated to Australia from Malta in 1950

In 1990 he decided to return to Malta to live and I came with him for a holiday after a month or so my father got sick and needed my help so being the only son I stayed (my father is a good man and has always been there for me so there is no way I could leave him).

Every 3 months I had to reapply for my Visa for an extension to stay, sometimes I would leave the Island to get a Visa. It was getting very difficult to live here; living on my father pension. It is impossible to find work without being a Maltese Citizen. After some time I HAD NO CHOICE but renounce my Australian Citizenship I fought hard not to change my Citizenship because I'm not Maltese I'm an Australian and always will be, all I wanted to do is look after my father not to change who I am.

I still have all my family there my mother is still there all my cousins from my mother side all my friend's are there, thank god for the internet every day I get emails from friend and family. I ask my father why his coming back to Malta he said "home is where the heart is" and this were his heart is my heart is still in Australia and always will. My father hasn't got long to live after he passes away I want to come home.

Thank you  
John Schembri