



Mrs Michelle Grech

To: The Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Reference Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA.

15th February 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was born in Sunshine in Australia on the 29th May 1976. My mother and father migrated to Australia from Malta in 1965.

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

In 1989 when I was 12 years 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 birthday. Prior to amendments which took effect on 10th February 2000, Maltese citizenship law did not allow dual citizenship in adults.

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I opted to keep Maltese Citizenship in adulthood due to the fact that life in Malta for me without Maltese citizenship would have been extremely difficult. In particular I found it difficult when I wanted to work.

Australian citizenship is my birth right because I was born in Australia. I still maintain close ties with Australia in the following ways: My Sister & her family live at 7, Dunrossil Crt Melton South 3338 Vic I have also a lot of aunts & uncles.

When my family and I lived in Australia we lived at 99, Theodore St St Albans my surname that time was Borg. I also attended St Albans Primary school till Grade 6.

My family and I would be very pleased if I get my Australian citizenship back because in future if possible we intend to come and live in Australia.

Regardless of the fact that I am not formally an 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 in this inquiry.

Yours Faithfully

Michelle Grech