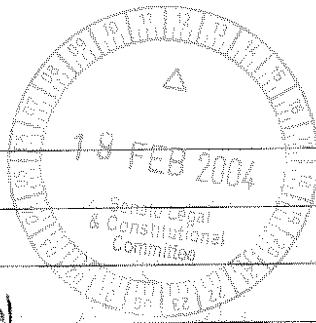


27.1.2004



To: The Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional  
References Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra A.C.T. 2600  
Australia

MRS O. Borg

Submission to Inquiry into Australian Expatriates

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Diane Borg nee Bonnici. I was born in Kogarah N.S.W. Australia on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1943. I have three brothers who were also born in Australia. I am the eldest.

In 1986 when I was 12 years old, my family migrated back to Malta. Before we came to Malta, my mother had renounced her Maltese citizenship and became Australian. When we came to Malta we found it difficult because as we were Australian, we had a lot of running around with papers even though my mother had Freedom of movement. The law was changed and my mother resumed her Maltese citizenship, and now has dual citizenship.

When I turned 18, I had no choice but to renounce my Australian citizenship, otherwise it would have been difficult for me to live in Malta. Like working and also access to social benefits, apart from other things like buying property and qualifying for subsidized housing. Two of my brothers also had to renounce their citizenship, and so we became Maltese citizens. My youngest brother is just about to turn 18 so automatically,

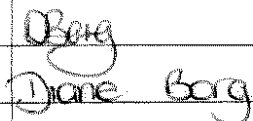
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due to law amendments he has a dual citizenship. The second youngest has also obtained dual citizenship after the change in Law on the 1st July 2002. Unfortunately my brother and I could not resume our citizenship as by that time we were 28 and 24. I think this very unfair, as I still consider myself Australian as I was born and lived in Australia.

I know that there are other conditions to resume my citizenship back, but I think it unfair that I have to go back to Australia and maintain Maltese citizenship as well. To me Australian citizenship is my birthright. To me it is very important as I think it is to many Australians who had to renounce their citizenship.

I hope you reconsider and change the law. I believe that I am not the only one who feels sorry for losing their citizenship. I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the work of your committee in this Inquiry and hope to hear good results in the near future.

Yours Faithfully

  
Diane Borg