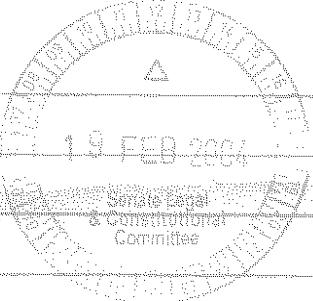Miss Joanne Mary Buhagiar

3-2-04

Submission to inquiry into Australian Expatriates

Dear Sir/Madam.
                    I was born in footscray,
Melbourne in Australia. On 6th April 1973.
My father migrated to Australia in October 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 five 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.years. 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

Joanne Buhagiar