

SHIRLEY SCHEMANN

23 FEB 2004

TO: THE SECRETARY

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMM.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

CANDORRA ACT 2608

AUSTRALIA

12-2-2004

SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIAN

EXPATRIATES

DEAR SIR/MADAM

I WAS BORN IN MELBOURNE IN
AUSTRALIA ON 21-9-71.

MY FATHER AND MOTHER ARE BOTH
MALTESE. THEY EMIGRATED TO
AUSTRALIA IN 1964 AND RETURNED
TO MALTA IN 1984.

I HAD TO RENOUNCE MY AUSTRALIAN
CITIZENSHIP AS UNDER MALTESE LAW

2

I COULDN'T HAVE DUAL CITIZENSHIP.
IF I DIDN'T RENOUNCED MY AUSTRALIAN
CITIZENSHIP, I WOULD HAVE TO GO
THROUGH MANY DIFFICULTIES,
PROBLEMS FROM MY PARENTS, ACCESS
TO EMPLOYMENT, COULDN'T APPLY
FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS,
AND COULDN'T APPLY FOR FOR A
FREE PLOT OF LAND TO BUILD MY
HOUSE ON IT, A SCHEME THAT
WAS GOING ON AT THAT TIME,
I RENOUNCED MY AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP
AGAINST MY WISH, BUT I
WAS FORCED TO DO SO BY THE
MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT. I FORMED
MY LIFE IN AUSTRALIA, FROM BIRTH
UNTIL I WAS 14 YEARS OLD.
I CONSIDER MYSELF TO BE AUSTRALIAN
AND I LIKE TO BE BIVOU BACK
MY AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP.

ALTHOUGH I LOST MY CITIZENSHIP

3

I STILL CONSIDER MYSELF
AUSTRALIAN AND I GET PROUD WHEN
AUSTRALIA DOES GOOD IN SPORTS,
AND DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES
I WAS REALLY PROUD THAT I
AM AN AUSTRALIAN. MY DREAM
IS THAT SOMEDAY I WILL BE
ALLOWED TO LIVE IN MY COUNTRY
OF BIRTH. I LOVE AUSTRALIA.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

Shelby Gracie