

18th Feb. 04

Dear Sir / Madam

I was born in Sydney in Australia
26.07.58 My Father and Mother
migrated to Australia from MALTA
in The mid 1940 Approx

When i 18 years old my
father Moved Back to Malta in 1975
My Mother died in 1959. I am
the youngest of a family of six.
As i mentioned when i WAS 18 years
old Moved back to Malta. My fathers
father Was still Alive then, So my father
And i looked After him in his last
years of life. A year or So later
i Started dating a Maltese Girl
which in 1981 she became my wife.
Under Maltese Citizenship law i Was
required to decide between Maltese

And a Greek
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2/
Citizenship between my 13th and 19th birthdays. Prior to Amendments which took effect on 10 FEB 2000.

MALTESE Citizenship law did not allow dual Citizenship in Adulthood.

I was required by the MALTESE Citizenship authorities to present documentary evidence that I had formally renounced My Australian Citizenship under Australian law using Section 18 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 in order to keep My MALTESE Citizenship beyond my 19th birthday.

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, Access to Employment and ability to purchase property in MALTA for subsidised housing. This is just

for subsidised housing. This is just
to mention a few reasons of my decision.
no more in the circumstances. I was
extremely unhappy about forfeiting my
Australian Citizenship, because I was born
in Australia, spent my formative years
there and still consider myself to be
"Australian" today, even if I am not legally
an Australian citizen.

Australian Citizenship is my birthright
because I was born in Australia. I still
maintain close ties with Australia

I have 4 Brothers and 1 Sister
two of them also were born in Australia.

I have more family in Australia
than I have in Malta.

The last time I was in Australia
to see family was in 1988
I was there for 6 months

4/

The Australian Citizenship Act 1948
contains a provision whereby those

Contains a provision 'Whereby those who lost their Australian Citizenship under the now repealed Section 17 May Resume their lost Citizenship as long as they are able to state an intention to return to Australia to live within three years.

I feel it is inequitable to deny those who lost their Australian Citizenship under Section 18 the same resumption right. When the 2002 repeal of Section 17 signals that Australia as a country now accepts dual citizenship as sound policy of the 21st century. Not only should the current resumption provision apply to Section 18 victims such as the self, but it should be broadened to

5/ It is submitted that living in Australia should not be one of the tests of worthiness to resume Australian citizenship. Overseas Australian make valuable contributions in a multitude of

Valuable Contributions in a multitude of ways to Australia Many Section 17

Victims acquired other Citizenship before 4 April 2002 because they felt Compelled to do so at the time for financial or Practical Reasons affecting life in their Country of Residence.

Australian Born Maltese are being discriminated against under Australian law simply because Maltese law at the time required a Section 18 Renunciation when the Citizenship laws of other countries did not. I note that Australian law changed with effect from 1st July 2002 to allow people who renounced their Australian Citizenship up to the age of 25 years.

6,

However, this provision does not assist me

However, - this provision does not assist me
because i was over the age of 25 on 1st July
2002.

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

John Paul Vella

