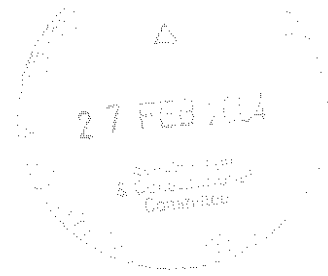


Timothy D. Hind



Austria

Sirs,

I've been living in Austria for the past 12 years, returning to Australia approximately every 2 years. My wife is South African and we have a 7 year old son who was born in Vienna, but has no claim to Austrian citizenship. He does however have an Australian passport and will decide on his citizenship (South African or Australian) when he reaches the age of 18.

We are in a unique position in that we would love to return to Australia to live there, but we foresee difficulties in having my wife granted legal status to reside/work in Australia – simply because she didn't apply for this as soon as we got married, 10 years ago. There would be a problem now because I suffered a massive stroke 3 years ago, and now am unable to work. I am partially paralysed on my right side (my right arm/hand is completely slack) and I have been left with aphasia (inability to process words) and aphraxia (inability to pronounce them). In other words, I can only speak in single syllables and have forgotten how to spell. My memory and thought processes are unaffected, but my wife speaks and writes for me. I could not offer my wife "sponsorship" in her claim for Australian citizenship.

Because of my affliction, I will remain dependent on my wife for the rest of our lives together. If we were to return to Australia, my wife would be the breadwinner, but as she is not Australian she would not even be allowed into the country, except for visits, let alone be allowed to work. I couldn't return on my own – this would be breaking up the family. Besides I would be completely dependent on the State.

I was born, and worked in Australia until I met my wife in the early 90s and we decided to stay in Vienna, where she works at the International Atomic Energy Agency, until her former contract expired. However, I suffered this stroke before we could start seriously planning our return, and now it's too late. My wife is 50 years old, and is a software developer. We have a house and a moderate-to-comfortable lifestyle, but no close family which means my wife bears the full burden of caring for me and our son. Attempts to gain financial support from Australia were to no avail owing to my expat status, and my wife's supposedly "adequate" income.

Perhaps this portal will provide us some kind of answer? My wife will retire someday and then we'll **have** to return to Australia, therefore we are concerned about our rights.

Sincerely,

(signed) Tim Hind.

