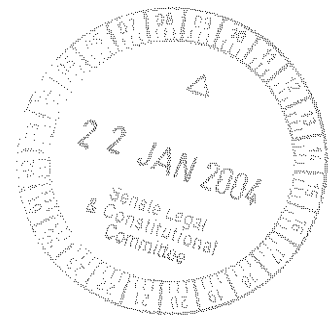




Your full name, Julie Zammit
MALTA



To: The Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parlament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA
Fax: +6126277 5794
E-mail: legton.sen@aph.gov.au

Date 17th January 2004

Submission to Inquiry into Australia Expatriates

Dear Sir/Madam

I was born in Melbourne / Footscray in Australia on 7th December 1966.
My mother and father migrated to Australia from Malta in the year March 1959 and they arrived in Australia on the 22ND of April of the same year.

As a child I enjoyed dual citizenship.
I was Australian birth under Australian law and Maltese by decent under Maltese law.

In the year December 1968 when I was about to be come two years old my family moved back to Malta, (I even had my birthday cake on the boat)
Under Maltese citizenship law I was required to decide between Maltese and Australian citizenship between my 18th and 19th birthday, Prior to amendments, which took effect on 10th February 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 adult hood due to the fact that life in Malta for me without Maltese citizenship would have been extremely difficult.
It would have been very difficult to find work, marry, and find me a home therefore build me a future.
I was being forced to choose to live here and give up my Australian citizenship or to keep my Australian citizenship and leave behind all my family, relatives and all my friends I grew up with.

At the time that I renounced my Australian citizenship I did so only because I felt compelled and essentially had now choice in the circumstances.
I was extremely un happy about forfeiting my Australian citizenship, because I was born in Australia, although I had two years I didn't remember anything about

Australia, I still consider my self to be Australian today even if im not legally an Australian citizenship. Infact when somebody asks me where I was born it comes automatically in my mouth AUSTRALIA, even my I.D. card says so and im proud to say so, it makes me special.

Australian citizenship is my birthright because I was born in Australia; I still maintain close ties with Australia, by writing letters to my cousin giving him news of our family and about Malta. Five years ago I even had my biggest dream come through which was, having having visited my native homeland.

The Australian citizenship act 1948 contains a provision whereby those who lost there 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 inequitably to deny those who lost there 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 for the 21st century

Not only should the current resumption provision apply to section 18 victims such as myself, but it should be broadened so that former Australians overseas are not required to make a living in Australia should not be one of the tests of worthiness to resume Australian citizenship. Overseas Australians make valuable contributions in a multitude of ways to Australia.

Many section 17 victims acquired other citizenships before 4 April 2002 because they felt compelled to do so at the time for financial or practical reasons effecting life in their country of residence. Australian – born Maltese are being discriminated against under Australian law simple because Maltese law at the time required a section 18 renunciations when the citizenship laws of other countries did not.

I note that Australian law changed with effect from 1 July 2002 to allow people who renounced their Australian citizenship in order to retain other citizenship to apply to resume their Australian citizenship up to the age of 25 years. However, this provision does not assist me, because I was over the age of 25 on 1 July 2002.

A problem I had before I got married was that I didn't have my baptism certificate. I asked the Australian embassy for help and replied that I had to call some relatives of mine for that information, and if I didn't have this relative in Australia, I wouldn't have found it so easy to collect my certificate. Who knows, maybe if I still had my Australian citizenship things would have been different. Anyway regardless of the fact in not formally Australian citizen, I consider my self to be one and an integral part of Australians now significant Diaspora. Many thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the work of your committee in this enquiry

Yours Faithfully

Julie Zammit

VICTORIA
AUSTRALIA
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1996

REGISTRATION NUMBER

63622/1966**BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

1 CHILD Surname Christian or Given Name(s) Sex Date of Birth Place of Birth	AZZOPARDI Julie Female 07 December 1966 Footscray
2 MOTHER Surname Maiden Surname Christian or Given Name(s) Occupation Age Place of Birth	AZZOPARDI Aguis Pauline 35 years Malta
3 FATHER Surname Christian or Given Name(s) Occupation Age Place of Birth	AZZOPARDI Nazzareno Labourer 33 years Malta
4 MARRIAGE OF PARENTS Date of Marriage Place of Marriage	09 November 1958 Malta
5 PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF RELATIONSHIP	Mary 7 Joe 5 years
6 INFORMANT(S) Name Address	P. AZZOPARDI 21 Ford Ave North Sunshine Mother
7 REGISTRATION OFFICER Name Date	L. Moretti 30 December 1966
8 ENDORSEMENT(S) Not any	

Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.
The back of this document contains an artificial watermark. Hold at an angle to view.



REGISTRY OF BIRTHS
DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

MELBOURNE

03 Dec 1998

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of Victoria, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Registrar

RECEIVED TIME 22. JAN. 17:34

PRINT TIME 22. JAN. 17:38

OPH/WAT/24/83



Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

DECLARATION OF RENUNCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP
Australian Citizenship Act 1948

Julie AZZOPARDI (DOB 7/12/66)

Julie House, St Peter Street, Kirkop

being an Australian citizen, do hereby declare that I renounce my Australian citizenship under the provisions of sub-section [(1),(2),(3),(3a)] of section 18 of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948.

Julie Azzopardi
(Signature)

Declared at Sliema, Malta this third day of January 85 19, before me :-

[Signature]
(Signature)
(Justice of the High Court, Judge, Magistrate Commissioner for Declarations, Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or authorised officer, as the case may be.)

Registered in the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Canberra, A.C.I., in Register number 8, page 129, this Twenty-second day of February 85, 19

[Signature]
(By authority of the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs)

SECOND SCHEDULE

BIRTHS IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA

Registered by Lawrence MORETTI

LG

No 63622 /66

1 No.	
Child—	7th December, 1966,
2 When and where born.. ..	Footscray.
3 Name and Surname	Julie AZZOPARDI.
4 Sex	Female.
Parents—	
Father—	
5 (1) Name and Surname, and occupation of the father	Nazzareno AZZOPARDI, Labourer,
(2) Age	33 years,
and	Malta.
(3) Birthplace	
6 (1) When and where married	
(2) Previous Issue—	9th November, 1958,
Living	Malta,
and	Mary, 7 years,
Deceased	Joe, 5 years.
Mother—	
7 (1) Name and maiden surname of the mother	Pauline AZZOPARDI,
(2) Age	maiden name Aguis,
and	35 years,
(3) Birthplace	Malta.
Informant—	
8 Signature, description, and residence of informant.. .. .	Certified by
	Polly Azzopardi,
	21 Ford Avenue,
	North Sunshine.
Witnesses—	
9 (1) Accoucheur	Mother.
(2) Nurse by whom certified	Dr. Grove,
and	Sister John.
(3) Names of occupiers or other witnesses	
Registration Officer—	
10 When Registered, and where	30th December, 1966, Melbourne.
11 Signature of Registration Officer	<i>[Signature]</i>
12 Name, if added after registration of birth	

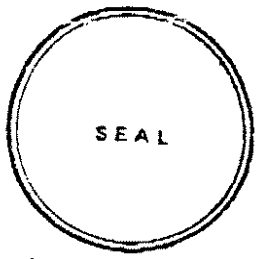
Patrick James Bernard McLOGHLIN a Registration Officer of the State of Victoria, in the Commonwealth of Australia, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an Entry in a Register of Births kept in this Office.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST, MELBOURNE, 18 SEP 1968

[Signature]

Certificate of Baptism

Born 7th December 1966
 Baptised 19th December 1966
 Name Julie Josephine Silvia
 Parents Magdalena Azopardo
Paula Aguila
 Residence 21 Ford Ave
North Hurst
 Sponsor(s) Sandra Azopardo
Josephine Azopardo
 Celebrant J. F. X. Culombin



15 18 185

The above is a true copy of an entry in the Register of Baptisms in the Church of

St. Germaine's Parish

Parish of North Hurst

Diocese of Northampton

John Joseph Culombin

Priest

ADVOCATE

RECEIVED TIME 22. JAN. 17:34

PRINT TIME 22. JAN. 17:38