

7 Cedarwood House
24 Culloden Road
Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 8QD
Phone (020) 8363 5203

The Hon. Gary Hardgrave MP,
Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs,
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra. A.C.T. 2600
Australia.

27th March 2003

Dear Mr. Hardgrave,

On the evening of the Affirmation of Australian Citizenship ceremony during your recent visit to London, I managed to speak to you regarding Australian Citizenship for adopted children as applicable to my son Ian. You very generously indicated that you would be happy to look further into the matter if I would write to you.

I was born in Australia and came to England in 1959 on a working holiday where I met my husband and we subsequently adopted two children.

I first enquired about Citizenship for them at Australia House in 1984 when Ian's sister planned to settle in Australia. At that time she was 21 and Ian was 19 and I was told that the age limit for registration had just been lowered to 18 and they no longer qualified.

I was encouraged to make a further enquiry in 1994 when I became a committee member of the Australian Women's Club in London and subsequently served as its President. The attached copy letter from Australia House confirms that the age limit remained at 18.

I understand that the age limit is now 25 and had this been the case when I first made the enquiry there would have been no problem.

My parents and grandparents were all born in Australia and so the roots tug strongly especially as I now have three grandchildren living with their parents, our daughter and her husband, in Sydney. I take deep pride in being Australian, a sentiment which has never nor will ever change no matter what! This feeling is shared by Ian, who always joins us on our annual visits to Australia, and I bitterly regret not having registered him at the time of his adoption as a child.

I do hope that there is some way to remedy my oversight and look forward to a reply from your Department in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Beryl Spalding (Mrs).