



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Ms Anne MacGregor
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BELGIUM

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Dear Ms MacGregor

Thank you for your fax and email of 13 June 2007 to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, concerning the practical arrangements for the processing of citizenship resumption applications by applicants from Malta. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

For your information, my conversation with Mr Bonello on 8 June 2007 was for the purpose of obtaining information from him, not to outline any arrangements.

As you are aware, this Department has for some time had general information on the arrangements relating to the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* on the citizenship website. In addition, an information document designed specifically for prospective applicants in Malta was prepared. It has been made available in Malta, in both English and Maltese language versions.

Generally, citizenship applications may be lodged at Australian Government posts overseas where there is an ongoing Department of Immigration and Citizenship presence. The Australian High Commission in Malta is not such a post, and does not accept applications for either visas or citizenship. The approach taken worldwide is that, in general, applications should be lodged where they are to be processed. This eliminates double handling and provides a more efficient service to clients. Applications for resumption of citizenship are processed in the ACT and Regions office of the Department in Canberra.

The latest client information states that original identity documents, such as passports, need not be provided with an application if copies of those documents have been certified by an Australian citizen in the employment of the Australian Government. Certification of copies of documents is a function which is performed at many Australian Government overseas posts, including the Australian High Commission in Malta. I understand that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade charges a fee for this service. Arrangements have been made for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship staff member on short term mission in Malta to provide this service free of charge for the duration of the mission. Arrangements are being made locally to respond flexibly to local demand.

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Client information also states that copies of documents other than identity documents may be certified by a person who does not know the applicant.

As previously advised by the Department, hard copies of the resumption application form will be available from the High Commission on 2 July.

Thank you for bringing these matters to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely



Mary Anne Ellis
Assistant Secretary
Citizenship Branch

29 June 2007