

**Southern Cross Group
Primary Submission to Citizenship Bill Inquiry
20 January 2006**

Data on Section 18 Families in Malta

1 Australian-Born Individuals Who Renounced Using Section 18

The SCG has detailed data on 296 people who were born in Australia but who used Section 18 of the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* before their 19th birthdays in order to retain Maltese citizenship in adulthood.

The average age of those for whom data has been collected is **37.9**.

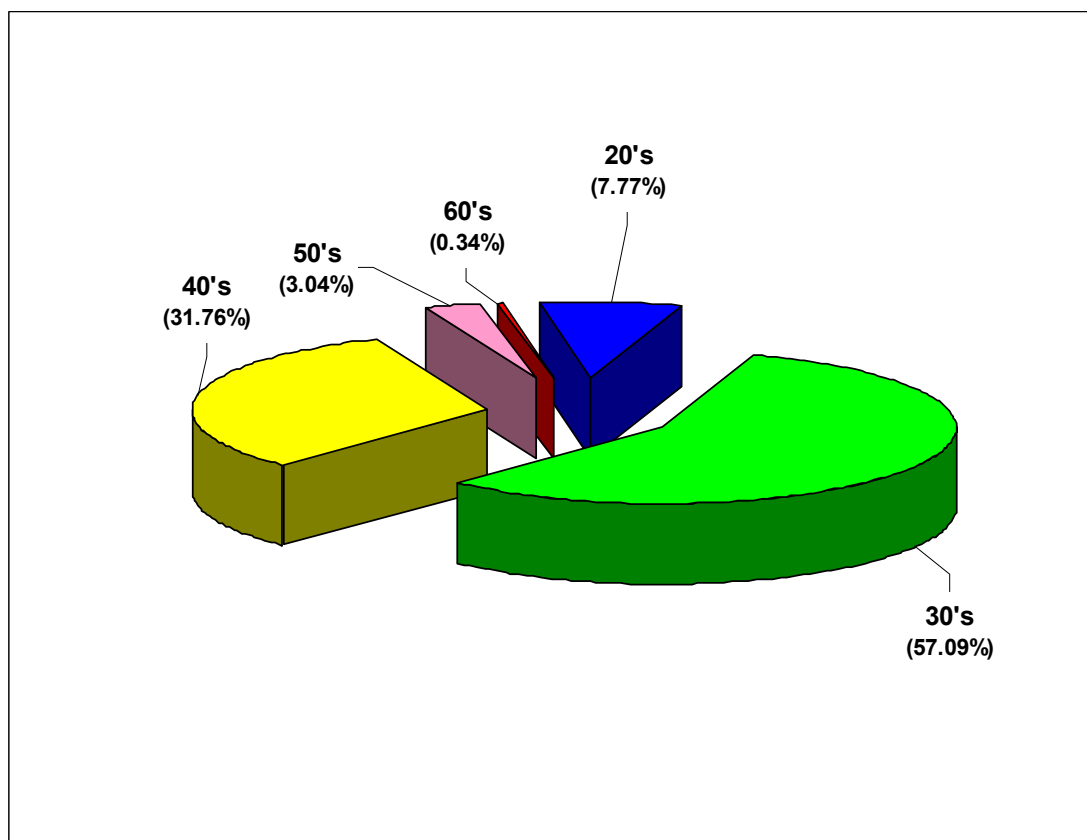
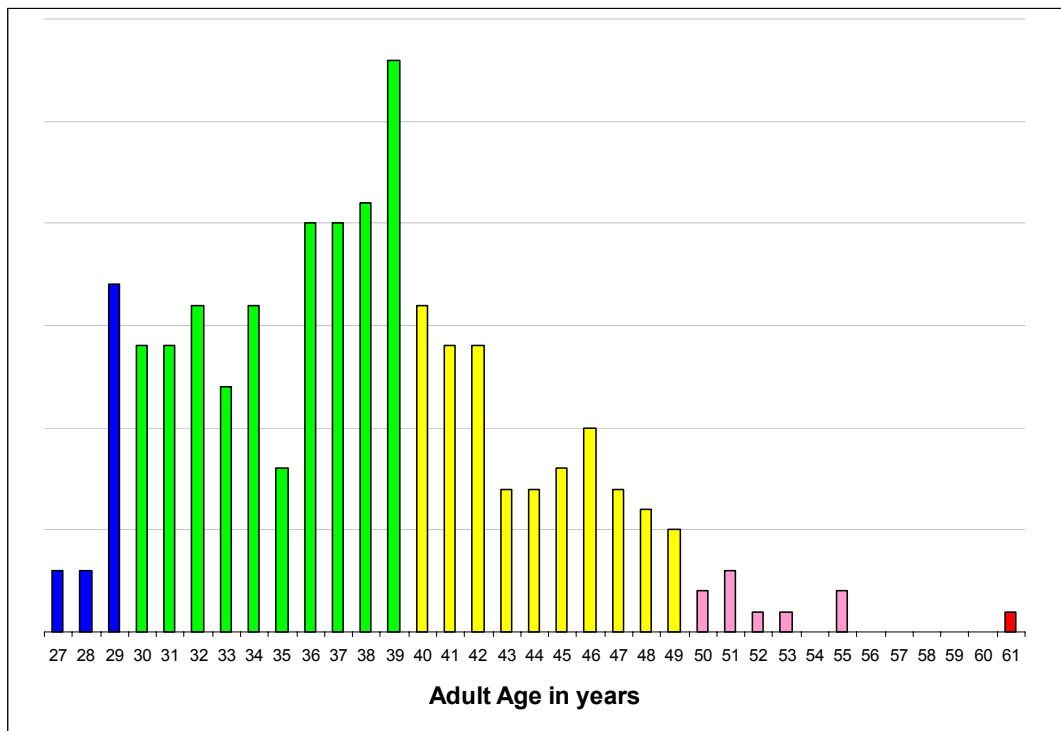
The SCG believes that there are “approximately 2,000” such individuals in Malta in total today.

The origin of this estimate is as follows. In 2002 a newspaper article was published in Malta stating that Maltese citizenship statistics put the number of Section 18 renunciations at **1994**. That figure tallies with a figure verbally provided to the SCG by a person at the Australian High Commission in Malta in early 2002. Anecdotal evidence suggests that access was provided to archived files held by the Maltese authorities at some point before 2002 and that a basic count of the number of Australian renunciations was undertaken by hand although no names or other data were recorded by the person who did the count.

Since Section 23AB was introduced in July 2002 DIMIA says that 47 people in Malta have resumed their Australian citizenship. This would leave **1947** individuals in Malta still to resume. A handful can be expected to have died over the years or already to have migrated to Australia or elsewhere.

This means that the SCG’s statistical sample represents approximately 15% of the total affected individuals who renounced using Section 18 in Malta.

Section 18 Renunciations in Malta: Spread by Current Age



2. Section 18 Offspring in Malta

223 of Section 18 renunciations in Malta on file with the SCG are individuals who have offspring. The SCG has data on 425 Section 18 offspring. This means that each Section 18 person in Malta has an average of 1.91 children, which exactly tallies with the official Maltese average number of children per family from general population data for 2003. 75% of Section 18 users in Malta have children to date. Assuming that the 425 offspring represent the same percentage of the total number as their parents (15%), then the total number of Section 18 offspring would be 2,833, or “approximately 3,000”. The average age of all Section 18 offspring registered with the SCG is **10.57** years.

Section 18 Offspring: Spread by Current Age

