

COPIA

21 January 2003

Mr. Paul O'Neill
Assistant Secretary
Awards and National Symbols
Reply Paid 3352
Manuka ACT 2603

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I refer to the Centenary Medal which is to be awarded to my wife "Mamma Lena Gustin in April 2003.

I am enclosing some material for your information which will help to explain why she is known by all the Italian community in Sydney as "Mamma Lena". Very few know her as Lena Gustin.

Three books have been written about her life and work – another is on the way. She has been the subject of countless poems, songs and articles. She has been honoured by both the Italian and Australian government and is probably the most decorated Italian woman in Australia. However, the title she cherishes most is that of "Mamma Lena"

Hopefully it is not too late to request that the Medal be inscribed simply as "Mamma Lena"

I thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards,

Dino Gustin

Enclosed:

- 1) The CD "Remembering Mamma Lena" on which community leaders pay homage to Mamma Lena
- 2) Newspaper article showing the Child Care Centre we built for the community and the bronze bust of Mamma Lena given to her by the Italian community and unveiled by Ministers Ruddock and Aquilina.
- 3) A copy of some of the messages of congratulations from former State and Federal Ministers