

19 July 1999

Cr. Ian Stromborg  
Mayor of Bankstown  
Council Chambers  
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

Dear Mayor,

I am Mamma Lena (Lena Gustin) resident at 102 South Terrace Bankstown for the last 43 years. I am also very well known, especially by the Italian community, throughout Australia. About a month ago the Italian Government - during the Italian National Day festivities - awarded me with its highest award, the Cross of Commendatore (equivalent to the title of Dame). This award is added to the one received in 1967 from the Italian Government (Knight of the Republic) and in 1968 the MBE from the Queen.

10 days ago I turned 85 but both my husband Dino and I are still very active in our community.

This brings me to the purpose of this letter. Dino and I are also organizing a table for the "1999 Bankstown Mayoral Ball" which will represent the Italo-Australian community of Bankstown. Hopefully during the ball I will be able to confer to you and to ex Prime Minister Paul Keating the "Heart of Mamma Lena" medal. It's a medal I give to people I hold in high regard and as a thank you for the support given to the Italo-Australian community.

If such a presentation is possible, please confirm by faxing 9708 6671 or you may wish to write to me at 102 South Terrace Bankstown.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

Mamma Lena Gustin

P.S. I take the liberty of enclosing some material which will best explain my activities.