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19 May 2000

The Hon. John Aquilina  
Minister for Education and Training  
Level 2 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW  
Australia

**RE: PROPOSED NOMINATION FOR THE CONFERRING OF THE**  
**"AUSTRALIAN ORDER" TO MR. GIUSEPPE (JOE) BUDA**

Dear Mr. Aquilina,

I take this opportunity of singling out one of our compatriots popular among Italo-Australians in the Cabramatta/Fairfield/Liverpool area.

Giuseppe (Joe) Anthony Buda was born in Sydney on the 7th July 1947 from a Sicilian family which arrived in Australia in 1920. He was educated at the Marist Brothers Catholic College and went to University to study law. He graduated and admitted to the Bar as a Solicitor in the Supreme Court.

In 1972 Giuseppe Buda opened an office in Cabramatta where he began to assist Italian clients who, because of language, found themselves in difficulties. For many he acted on a voluntary basis as interpreter and legal counsel. He is highly esteemed and trusted among his compatriots because they know he will not turn away someone in need.

Giuseppe has assisted in the incorporation of many Italo-Australian clubs in his area including the "Southern Italian Club" (S.I.S.A.L.) and the "Abruzzi Club" of Whetheril Park. At present he is the Legal Counsel for the Marconi Club Soccer Team and is working with the S.W.I.A.A. (South West Italian Assistance Association) for the construction of Aged Care Village on a piece of land in front of the Marconi Club. He has also assisted Dino and I from time to time with some of the challenges arising from the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre in Fairfield.

Giuseppe is married to Tina and has two grown sons, Carlo and Anthony who have followed their father's footsteps by studying law and joining him in his practice.

What I am asking, dear Minister, is a good word from you to facilitate the granting of an AO to an individual who has served his community well. I am ready to personally vouch for Mr. Buda for he truly deserves recognition. In confidence, the Italian Government is investigating the possibility of granting Mr. Buda the "Cavaliere" cross.

I thank you for what you will do for Mr. Buda and I am confident that your assistance will be invaluable.

Very best regards from me and Dino,

Lena Gustin  
(Cav. Comm. Lena Gustin MBE)