

If the ill-considered intervention is to continue I would hope to see a more nuanced, considered approach - that instead of shaming everyone, one that would take into consideration individual cases, and acknowledge that many are looking after their families responsibly. I hope the words of the Elder of the year on Australia Day will have some effect, as she wished, in giving more control and self-determination to communities, giving money to bilingual education and so helping to stop the erosion of culture and identity.

I do not wish to say more as a white person, but I do hope that more consideration will be paid to the voice of the elders in the communities, and not just those presented as spokespeople who tend to reinforce the government's policies.

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