

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have a background in teaching ESL to the children of immigrants. I have also worked as a teacher in countries with people of darker skin colour. I am NOT racist. Currently, my best friend is Cambodian.

BUT it has been my observation that people of certain cultures – as distinct from race – are far more intolerant than the average Australian. For example I have heard my Lebanese students denigrate their Asian fellow students and Asian students criticise the looks of Australian students. These are minor indications. More serious are the deeds of persons such as Bilal Skaf and his rapist friends.

My point is that people of certain cultural backgrounds do not readily assimilate, believing their values are superior to ours. But they should be encouraged to do so, rather than be permitted to live in ghettos where ordinary Australians are afraid to go and where racial and religious hatred is taught to their children. Let us keep our great nation the way it is, with its generally accepted values of freedom of expression and of a fair go for all. Do not allow it to be taken over by newcomers with attitudes inimical to our way of life. And do not allow them to infiltrate our parliament in numbers that enable them to shape or country to resemble the countries they have fled because of religious intolerance and persecution.