

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission no. 198**

Attention: Maria Vamvakinou

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this letter in response to the Inquiry on Multiculturalism in Australia.

Firstly, I would like to advise you that both of my parents migrated from Europe in the 1950's. My mother from Greece and my father from the Ukraine. I am very proud of my heritage and ethnic background.

I do not object to people from other countries coming to Australia as long as they integrate into our society (as my parents did) and do not segregate. And, as long as they are prepared to work and contribute to society in a positive way.

There is a great deal of difference between immigration and multiculturalism. We as a country can welcome people from other nations and invite them to become Australian and while some of their ways will certainly permeate society we want our culture to stay basically Australian, underpinned by our Christian heritage. It is important for Australia to maintain its Christian values as was founded on. The reason many people came and continue to come to Australia is because this country is based on Christian values and the freedom's we have comes from believing ALL people are equal but that all cultures and lifestyles are not.

We can invite people to share good parts of their particular ethnic culture with us so that we can learn how others live, but that does not mean we have to agree with their values or worldview. If they want to change this nation to suit their values then that crosses the line and becomes unacceptable. This is by no means racist – just a fact that all nation's laws and values are not equally good.

What is meant by the "Governments social inclusion agenda"? Is this different to assimilation?

I do not think Australians really know what multiculturalism means. Many thought that it originally meant that we accept people from other countries because they want to come here and be Australian. Sadly, that perception has been changed.

Let me close by saying, there is no better country in the world to live today and I along with many fellow Australians would like it to stay that way – a democratic nation.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely -