

**Australian Parliament  
Joint Standing Committee on Migration  
Submission no. 284**

Hi there, I have no idea how to really speak on behalf of the Australian community about Multi-culturalism, but I do feel there is an underlying sense from many Australians that we are being taken over by other faiths/cultures that have not been founded here in Australia. I believe the average Aussie would not want to have their children taught about a faith that basically wants to take over. Christianity has always been taught as it was our basic faith in Australia, but it never took over. Lately, Aborigine faith/culture has been taught in our schools, but not in a manner that you have to believe in it, just facts that help us understand them. Which I think is good. What if the Aborigines decided we should take on their culture?? But when we are, what seems to be, forced not just taught, to think like other faiths/cultures, I think the average Aussie would balk at this.

I emigrated in 1970 and have lived here since. I came from England and had my ideas of how to live that were probably different to others in Australia but I didn't try and enforce them on anyone. I know England and Australia and very similar in culture. But if any person from any country is wanting to emigrate from another country with a different culture, wouldn't you think they would submit to Australian culture more than try to change ours for them. I'm sure many people (I know some) who go and live in other countries, change their lifestyle accordingly out of respect for that country. i.e Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq etc. They would eat their food and dress as they dress and they wouldn't even think of changing the culture of that country. So why do we accommodate other cultures/faiths push for their change?

I'm sorry if I sound negative. I find it hard to share what I think without being negative. I love other cultures. I think they are brilliant. I love watching programs about different cultures. We can learn so much from them. But we shouldn't be co-erced into taking on others culture - if that's the right thing to say????? I want Australia to stay Australian.

Thank you for your time in reading this.