

**Australian Parliament  
Joint Standing Committee on Migration  
Submission no. 294**

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Migration  
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Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Australia

Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia

I write my submission as an individual Christian who bases my faith on the Holy Bible and on the premise that our country Australia was founded on Christian principles. I know that I represent the voice of many thousands of God fearing Christians across our nation, who want this Christian Heritage to remain, without other multi faith religions and organisations dictating otherwise.

If an immigrant chooses to come to Australia either as a student or to work they must adhere to our Christian Heritage. That is, they cannot dictate that schools should

remove Christian teaching or values because it could be offensive to their religion. These religions cannot and must not be permitted to enforce on us how they are to be treated.

Countries where many of these immigrants come from already have a government or regime that dictates what religion and values are permitted in their home land. And they have to abide by that, and we too are expected to abide by that if we choose to visit these countries, or we will face serious consequences for not doing so.

Therefore, it would only be right for any immigrant coming to Australia to respect and uphold our Christian Heritage without any question. That is, the Muslim dress code is quite problematic for women. They shouldn't be permitted to wear the burqa. Muslims don't want to be discriminated against and want to be treated like everyone else so instead of bringing attention to themselves they need to interact the same as everyone else, more particularly the burqa is a security nightmare (eg banks, airports terminals, etc). If these people choose to pray three to five times a day in the work place they have to understand that business owners do not have the time nor the money to accommodate this practice. And here I can understand why many Muslims find it hard to get work here in Australia when these small businesses are put under this duress by such demands. In addition to this, Muslims shouldn't be able to dictate to our supermarkets what food can and cannot be sold, whilst we (non Muslims) are not permitted to have any say in this matter.

I am a woman who has helped many immigrant families across our nation with their pregnancies. These families are of all faiths, including Hindu, Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Sikh and so forth. My husband and myself have paid for many of these families to give birth in hospitals because they do not have health insurance. Many of these women are faced with forced abortions because of the high costs involved with pregnancy and birthing with the average cost ranging from \$11,000 - \$25,000 depending on the state. These families are unable to access Medicare and when pregnant are unable to take out health insurance to cover the pregnancy and birth because it is a one year wait. This is a huge problem across Australia that needs addressing, immediately and not in five years time. I have also come across many immigrants who have

massive debts which they cannot pay, due to needing emergency medical assistance and care, because they do not have health insurance.

For immigrants to have a better life in Australia they need to have compulsory health insurance.

To reiterate, for immigrants to have a better life in Australia and for Australian's to welcome and accept them, they will at the very least need to accept our Christian Heritage and values and not challenge and try to erode them for their own purposes for this is what made our country great.