

Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration concerning Multiculturalism

20 April 2011

Introduction:

I would like to commence by making three statements:

- I am grateful for the opportunity of presenting this submission to the Joint Standing Committee.
- I sincerely hope the Committee is approaching this inquiry in a completely objective manner without any pre-conceived opinions concerning conclusions or recommendations.
- I believe it is important for an objective analysis of the assets and liabilities of Multiculturalism in Australia.

Executive Summary:

- Australia is a multicultural country with a monocultural problem.
- Every culture in Australia seems to effortlessly contribute to the Australian way of life with the exception of Islam.
- Why is this and how can this unacceptable situation be resolved?
- The consequences and dangers of continued Islamic immigration are outlined together with suggested responses.
- Common sense should over-ride governmental obsession with a non-discriminatory immigration policy if our country is confronted with people from groups statistically likely to exhibit unacceptably high criminal or anti-social activity.

General Comments:

- Multiculturalism has effectively been the accompaniment of migration in Australia since the end of World War II.
- The "White Australia Policy" introduced with Federation was progressively diluted after WWII until being totally removed with the 1975 Racial Discrimination Act.
- The earliest post-war immigrant groups, apart from those from the UK, were largely from Greece and Italy and have been a wonderful asset for Australia and a great introduction of multiculturalism, owing to their work ethic and how well they assimilated.
- The next very significant immigrant group from Southeast Asia coincided with the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and the rejection of the White

Australia Policy. Significant cultural differences have been overcome especially with the second generation of these immigrants who are adding to the rich diversity of Australian culture.

- Since that time, immigrants have come to Australia for many diverse countries and cultures with the most obvious major cultural group emanating from Islamic countries.
- Immigrants from most countries have a culture which is recognized as being associated with those countries.
- Islamic immigrants are different in that there is a shared culture but from very different countries in the Middle East, Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- Whereas most Australian immigrants are thought of as coming from specific countries, immigrants from Islamic countries are generally thought of as Muslims and perhaps this is also the perception of the Islamic immigrants themselves.
- It should be recognised that all foreign countries/cultures have the potential for enriching both the lives of the immigrants to Australia and Australia itself.
- For this enrichment, immigrants must appreciate the Australian ethos and contribute to our wonderful country by fully appreciating and integrating into our culture and accepting our laws, while maintaining their own traditions within that integration.
- All immigrants seem able to seamlessly join the Australian way of life with the apparent exception of a minority of new settlers from Islamic countries.

Islamic Immigration:

- Assets:
 - The potential of delivering a new culture to Australia, including appreciation of new customs, language, cuisine etc.
 - The potential of existing Australian residents and new settlers learning to live together to appreciate the opportunities of understanding quite different cultures with integration into the "Australian way".
 - Recent personal experience with a group of Hazara Muslims who painted our house was an extremely positive period of interaction.
 - The majority of Australian Muslims are probably good citizens.
- Liabilities:
 - There is a significant minority of Muslims who are dissatisfied with many aspects of the Australian way of life and wish to change these to suit their own requirements as manifest in suggestions of introducing Sharia law.
 - This attitude of dissatisfaction would seem to be uniquely associated with Muslim immigrants.

- There is a less iniquitous attitude in some Muslim communities to resist full integration into the wider Australian community. This seems to be almost isolated to this culture which is not assisted by attitudes towards women which are entirely unacceptable in our country.
- The preaching of too many Imams in Mosques seems to stress intolerance if not overt animosity towards non-Muslims.
- The archaic attitude of many Muslim males towards women makes it particularly difficult for them to adjust to Australian society and causes significant problems should marriages break down.
- The fact that women have equal rights to their children and property under Australian law is a concept that is foreign to the Muslim male and one he often finds difficult to accept. This attitude towards his daughters tends to perpetuate the problem.

Evidence of Serious Dangers of Fundamentalist Islamic Behaviour:

- The destruction of the New York World Trade Centre in 2001.
- The Madrid bombings in 2004.
- The London underground bombings in July 2005.
- The Bali bombing of October 2005.
- Recently, the British Prime Minister, the French President and the German Chancellor have all stated that Multiculturalism in their countries has failed due to Islamic communities fomenting serious civil disturbance.
- With these opinions from major European leaders with significantly more experience with Islamic migration than Australia, it appears to me that it is lacking wisdom and demonstrating naivety for the government to insist that "our" multiculturalism is quite different and no cause for concern.

Consequences of Fundamentalist Islamic Behaviour:

- Following the London tube bombings, a media survey was conducted of 2000 British Muslims of whom 10% believed the atrocity was justified.
- 90% of those Muslims surveyed did not believe there was any justification for that terrorist activity.
- The point to make from this survey is that although only a minority of Muslims may harbor such attitudes, they are completely unacceptable and extremely dangerous for any civilized society.
- There are approximately 350,000 Muslims in Australia now. If 10% hold similar extremist views as expressed by the surveyed British Muslims, that would indicate potentially 35,000 Muslims in Australia today may support harming their adopted

country. If only 1%, that would be 3,500 and even if only 0.1%, that would still represent 350 people who might wish us harm.

- It should be remembered that only 19 fanatical Muslim extremists were responsible for the murder of over 3000 people in the "9/11" atrocity.
- We have recently seen convictions for terrorist offences of 6 Islamic men in Melbourne in 2008 and 3 Islamic men in Sydney in 2010.
- These facts support the analogy with the British experience.
- Despite the good intentions of probably the great majority of Islamic immigrants to Australia, the minority who do not have such good intentions are so dangerous that identifying the most likely source of Islamic immigrants likely to wish harm to our country should be of paramount importance with consequential action to avoid accepting new settlers from those sources.

How Should Australia React to Islamic Fundamentalism?

- There are many Islamic countries from which Australian immigrants have originated, including Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia and African nations.
- The identity of the countries from which the convicted Australian Islamic terrorists or their families have originated is obviously known as also would be the case with other criminal offences such as rape, assault and property crime committed by immigrants or their descendants.
- If collected data indicates there is a recognized source or sources of undesirable immigrants into our country, then surely it would exhibit wisdom and caution to critically consider and subject to extremely close scrutiny any further applications from people wishing to settle in Australia using such data.
- The government should appreciate the serious danger of continued large scale Islamic immigration and consider an unstated selective policy which would generally not favour such a source of immigrants.
- Surely Australia already has a discriminatory immigration policy in excluding people having criminal records. Common sense would indicate that people from groups statistically likely to exhibit unacceptably high criminal activity or anti-social behaviour in our country should also be excluded.
- It should not be unreasonable to expect our immigrants to exhibit no greater tendency to become criminals than Australian-born people.
- The culture of Islam is such that there is no separation between church and state which has resulted in Mosques being used to influence and foster extremist views under the guise of religion. As these "sermons" are given in Mosques where non-Muslims are excluded, they are difficult to monitor.
- At present in the major settlement areas when Mosques are found in Australia, I believe that the Imams are almost exclusively immigrants themselves with probably

a background of madrassa education where attitudes of exclusivity and superiority of the Muslim faith with intolerance towards non-Muslims abound.

- Australian authorities should not accept immigration of further foreign-educated Imams to preach in Australia Mosques. There should be encouragement of the Islamic communities to select Imams who have been born or educated in Australia and who should therefore understand the Australian ethos and values, including its attitude to women.
- There appears to be little education given to immigrating Muslims as to the enormous differences in the values, culture and attitudes to be found in Australia.
- Perhaps accepting these differences should be one of the criteria in becoming a "New Australian" and serious breaches could be a reason for revoking citizenship or considering deportation.
- As concerns this last point, I understand that new immigrants are required only 2 years residence before being deemed eligible for Australian citizenship. I believe a safer period would be 5 years to enable unsatisfactory behaviour to become manifest which would be inconsistent with citizenship.