

Committee
Joint Standing Committee on Migration

Secretary

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have just been made aware of your Committee, so request an extension of time for this to be included. Since 2008 I have been a resident of the Philippines, but from 1953 to 1961 and 1968 to 2008 I was living in Australia, and have Australian and British nationality. It is my intention to make a positive contribution to whatever country I live in, and feel that other migrants should have a similar attitude. I would just like to point out that any legislation I have perused in the Philippines tends to include the rider that if a breach of that legislation occurred warranting a prison sentence, if the offender is a foreigner, after that sentence has been served the offender is to be immediately deported. I think having a similar rider on Australian criminal legislation would not go amiss. My father was a Dutch national, became a naturalised Australian, and sought to contribute to his new country through community activities. I have always thought that newcomers to a place, whether it be a workplace or a country, have more of an onus to 'keep their noses clean' than the established personnel. People who bend or break the rules immediately are only going to get worse as time goes on, so if they do this during a probationary period they should be expelled.

Now in regards to multiculturalism, not all elements of a culture are positive, even elements of Australian culture. What your Committee should do is seek to identify those good and bad elements of each ethnic group in Australia, with a view to adopting and promoting the propagation of the positive elements, and atrophying the negative elements. In looking for elements, there are two dimensions, horizontal and vertical. Horizontal elements are those that go across national borders, vertical are those that go back in time. For example, there are some elements of English culture that are becoming lost to us or are struggling to survive. These are such things as the English Mystery Plays, or Morris Dancing. Many classical texts endure because they have elements of time-proven wisdom in them. These texts can be from other nationalities, but if translated into English and publicised, could help enrich Australian culture. The most obvious existing negative elements of Australian culture that need to be stamped out are those relating to the misuse of alcohol. These lead to drunk driving road fatalities, domestic violence, foetal alcohol syndrome, the disintegration of Aboriginal communities etc.

Yours faithfully,