

*uChair of the Migration Committee, Maria Vamvakinou*

*As a school teacher with well over 40 years experience I wish to submit my views on multiculturalism from a classroom perspective, having spent decades of my teaching career in what could certainly be deemed multi-racial classrooms.*

*Let me assure you that children of the same or similar racial backgrounds almost always stick together, at least at a primary level. There is little integration, indeed there is much separation.*

*As a teacher I have found that disrespect for female teachers is rampant amongst middle eastern boys and as a consequence, the whole class of children suffers because of these disruptions.*

*While Australia's policy of assimilation of all ethnic backgrounds may be appealing to some the fact is that multiculturalism is exceedingly flawed when one views it across the broad spectrum of diverse nationalities that find their way to our shores.*

*There seems to already be a fear in this nation when one mentions muslims who are in themselves diverse. Islam is not just a religion but more so, an ideology that permeates every aspect of a muslim's life and so many of their beliefs are radically opposed to the democracy of Australia. I wonder how many of your committee members have read the quran or know any of the hadiths.*

*If multiculturalism works why do we have whole suburbs given over to a particular race instead of there being a mix of diverse nationalities.*

*As a teacher I have closely observed the changes that have taken place at selective high schools over the past 15 years and this REALLY concerns me. When my daughter first attended a selective school there were lots of aussies as well as a mix of children from other racial backgrounds. Today there is barely a fair haired blue eyed child in selectve schools near me. Are australian children less capable academically than children from other racial backgrounds? No. I don't believe so. The fact is that most children from asian countries go to school 5 days a week and then go home to 'do' school all over again at home, often working until late at night*

*and being required to study subjects a year ahead of what they are doing at school...i.e accelerated learning.What adult comes home from work only to do the same job at home for a few hours. As if that isn't enough many of these children have to goto school on the weekend. I have heard a number of teachers say that this is child abuse as these children have little, if any play or social interaction or rarely do they play sport.Is this a picture of multiculturalism?*

*Well if you reached this far in my e-mail, I sincerely thank you.I love our culture but I fear it will be a very different one from the one in which I grew up.Or will we learn from other nations before it is too late.*