

25 February 2011

We are not in favour of multiculturalism as a government policy, for two main reasons.

1) It dilutes almost universally agreed Australian values of gender equity, free speech, religious tolerance, democracy, free association and equal treatment of all citizens and residents regardless of racial or ethnic background. In particular gender inequality in most cultures other than those based on Western values is of great concern to us. Religious intolerance in many non-western cultures is also of concern to us. A policy of multiculturalism implies tacit agreement with such un-Australian values.

2) Government funding of multicultural activities encourages rent seeking behaviour and is an impost on taxpayer's money that many taxpayers who are not beneficiaries would not agree with. Further, it implies special treatment of particular groups of residents/citizens to the detriment of equal treatment of other groupings. (Similarly we see no reason for Government funding of other cultural and media activities, e.g. symphony orchestras, the Australian Opera and the ABC.) In this respect we find it alarming the Australian Government seeks to increase rent seeking behaviour by setting up programs to encourage ethnic groups into small businesses.

We emphasise that this is not an argument against a non-discriminatory migration policy. That is a separate issue which should be examined on its own merits. Nor is the above an argument for ethnic groups freely associating with one another and funding their own law abiding activities.

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J B