

5 April 2011

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
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Submission: the Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia

I believe there are urgent imperatives for us to alter immigration policies before it is too late. Firstly, the Anglo-Celtic (population) share has fallen from 90 per cent in 1947 to 74.5 per cent in 1988 and to 70 per cent in 1999. Projections for the future indicate that if recent immigration trends are maintained the Anglo-Celtic share will fall to 62.2 per cent in 2025.¹ Will we need to go the way of Fiji and end up having to have a coup d'état to arrest back power of our own country? Is not how our politicians pander to the migrant vote a significant indicator that we are already going this way?

Secondly, it is predicted that the world will have 9.2 billion people by mid-century, up from nearly 6.8 billion today. Most of the additional 2.3 billion people will enlarge the population of developing countries, which is projected to rise from 5.6 billion in 2009 to 7.9 billion in 2050. In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to change minimally, passing from 1.23 billion to 1.28 billion, and would have declined to 1.15 billion were it not for the projected net migration from developing to developed countries.² Countries like Australia are going to come under ever increasing pressure to accept greater numbers of refugees, and these are going to come from developing countries. Whether we will be in a position to “accept” them or have them mass on our doorstep is debatable. The need to develop measures for this eventuality is crucial. A preview of our future can be seen by what is presently happening with African refugees on the Spanish coast near Gibraltar and the Italian island of Lampedusa. The views of Zapatero, Berlusconi, Merkel and Cameron on multiculturalism are not without foundation.

Multiculturalism was more a vote-winning political concept than a well thought out strategy. Cynically one could think it was to sway the ethnic vote as to benefit the future of Australia. Have things changed at all today? Benefits of *multiculturalism* are more a “given” than being based on empirical evidence. Surely a richer varied cuisine is not an argument! There are far more examples of the advantages of homogeneous cultures than of the benefits of mixed cultures. Equally so, the advantages of *diversity in the workplace* has never been subjected to the microscope and I know of no empirical data that has ever supported this concept.

I believe we should adopt strategies to enforce the Australian culture³ and not weaken it. Our attitudes, values and beliefs are our strengths, but these are not universal. One could argue that

¹ C. Price, *Immigration and Ethnicity*, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Canberra, 1996

² <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6038> - United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

³ Kroeber, A. L. and C. Kluckhohn, 1952. *Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts and Definitions* define culture in 3 senses – (1) excellence of taste in the fine arts and humanities (high culture); (2) an integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and

developing countries are so because they have not developed similar attitudes, values and beliefs. One of the best examples that I can give of the weakening of our value system, is the eroding of women's rights in our society. The work of the suffragettes is one of the pillars of our culture. Reiterating: Australian women were one of the first to get the vote and were the first to be allowed to stand for election. As much as I respect Muslims, there is no place in Australia for the Burqa. Regardless of whether the use is political or religious, it is a repugnant reminder of the Middle Ages. I am appalled at the message this sends to our daughters. How easily we tread over our own culture and those things we fought for and hold dear, in the interest of protecting someone else's rights!

Why are only 37% of our migrants coming from developed countries⁴? Is this because someone has decided that Australia needs a larger population and if we can't get migrants from one source than any other will do? The argument that we need to increase the workforce to maintain our living standards is an economic concept only Lemmings might agree with!

There is an imminent need to alter our immigration policies to adjust to the changing ethnic mix of the Australian population and to set in place measures to cope with the future population explosions in developing countries. The watering down of Australian attitudes, values and beliefs by a non-discriminate migration policy will weaken Australia in the future. I believe future generations of Australians will pay for the emasculation of our politicians by the short-term vote-winning policies of pandering to the migrant vote.

Thank you.

behavior that depends upon the capacity for symbolic thought and social learning; and finally (3) the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution, organization or group.

⁴ <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/02key.htm>