

28 May 2011

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To whom it may concern

I have only just found out about the enquiry and I have been encouraged to write a brief submission to it. Unfortunately, I only have a little time to do it so it is not as good as it could be. I like many in Australia am concerned that Australia has lost control of immigration to Australia. Further, I am greatly concerned when I read articles in the media of recent immigrants rejecting Australian law and calling for the introduction of Sharia law. Instead of being in the position of deciding who comes to Australia, we are now being confronted with the situation where there is an influx of people from varied backgrounds who were not invited and who may not be the best choice for Australia.

At the start I should say that I support migration to Australia. I interact with, work with, have studied with and currently regularly socialise with many fine people who have migrated to Australia. In fact my daughter in law is a migrant.

My background is that I was born in Australia, have traveled to a number of countries in Asia, Europe and Northern America and lived for over 2.5 years in an Asian country. Further, I have completed a fair amount of study and I widely read the newspapers each day.

As previously stated I believe the Government has lost control and any credibility that they know how to manage immigration to Australia. They are high on rhetoric and low on action. Their actions don't match their words and their last scheme to trade 800 boat people for 4000 refugees from Malaysia is simply incoherent, smacks of desperation and must surely make Australia the laughing stock of Asia.

One thing I dislike about the current situation is that the Australian people's generosity is simply being taken advantage of and abused. Australia as a wealthy country should always be prepared to help genuine refugees and to take them in. This has been our tradition since the early 1950s. People from many parts of the world have been welcomed to Australia and they have supported our way of life, supported our way of Government, integrated into society and help build Australia into a better country. However, now we are faced with a different issue where people are arriving without notice or selection and the Australian people are clearly being given any choice and are being taken advantage of.

Over the past few years there have been literally thousands of people arriving by boat and air illegally and without due process to see if they are the type of people who will benefit Australia. This needs to be effectively controlled. No country with an effective government would allow it to happen. Many of the illegal immigrants have paid a large sum of money to travel half way around the world to arrive in Australia. Accordingly, I don't believe they are real refugees.

Refugees generally have little resources and they travel to a neighboring country. If these people were refugees they would stay in the countries they traveled through to get to Australia.

Many of the people who arrive are young men. I wonder about their goal. I suspect it is to secure themselves in Australia before inviting their extended family from their homeland to Australia. They know Australia has a generous welfare system that they can take advantage of once they get here. It is acting as a magnet for them.

I would suggest that certain criteria be employed for future immigration policy namely.

- Australia must set a coherent policy in place that sends a clear message about the way to become an immigrant to Australia and the type of people who would be welcome. It also must demonstrate the courage and resolve to stand by the policy. There are many countries around the world who are good examples of this.
- Australia gives out citizenship far too easily. Citizenship should not be granted until a person has shown over a long period of time that they are actually worthy of becoming a citizen. There are many countries around the world who do not allow people to gain citizenship but allow them to come into the country and work under good conditions, but they do not gain citizenship and they cannot vote. If any person ever causes any problem or disturbance they are on the next aircraft back home.
- Training providers must not be allowed to offer training to candidates around the world with the promise or link that the particular person will gain permanent residency if they complete a certain course. This has happened in the past.
- Australia must clearly state the type and skills of people whom it favours. This should not be to the exclusion of genuine refugees who do not have the skills as the country has a duty to help them. However, Australia must be careful about a number of issues.

As indicated I support immigration as it is in Australia's best interest. Further, there are many worthwhile and genuine people in the world who would make excellent citizens. We need to ensure they are the ones we accept into the country. I would suggest that all immigrants should:

- Give a signed undertaking that they will support the Australian government democratic process. If they ever oppose it in the future they should be reminded of their original commitment and if they have gone back on their commitment they should be asked to leave.
- Respect democracy, the law of the land and police in general. The rule of law and the separation of powers is an intrinsic part of our democracy.
- Be without character blemish and not be tainted by corruption, dishonesty or any illegal activity. Many of the countries where these people come from are lawless societies. They will bring these beliefs and attitudes with them. Surely, Australia has produced enough of its own criminals without importing more.
- Not demand special rights of any nature. i.e. Sharia law.
- Must integrate into society and become a part of society. There are many who are actively encouraged not to do this.
- Be prepared to move to parts of Australia that needs them.
- Be prepared to undertake training so that they are not stuck on welfare for a lengthy time.

To send the correct message to would be immigrants the following should be adopted.

- Anyone who comes without a passport should not be processed but be sent back to their country of origin. Clearly, these people have had passports to travel through countries to get to Australia and they have decided that they have better prospects if they discard their passports.

- Anyone who arrives illegally should not be considered for a permanent residency or family reunion. This would send a clear message that there is only one way to get to Australia, by following the correct process. Further, it would allow the more genuine refugees a greater chance of being selected for Australia as illegal immigrants simply jump the cue.

I have grave concerns about one group of people in particular who are making their way to Australia in large numbers, and that is Muslims.

- Previous Immigrants have come from all countries of the world and they have integrated into Australia without complaint. I am sure it was not easy for them. In my travels around the world it is clear that wherever Muslims have moved they have not integrated into society and when their numbers increase to a certain level they start to make demands on their new homeland for change to their ways.
- The previous issues have caused major tensions in many counties because Muslims don't believe in democracy as it is inconsistent with their religion.
- They also think anyone who is not a Muslim is inferior to them and they call them an infidel. This further alienates them and crystallises their attitudes and actions in their new homeland.
- Many don't respect our laws or police and many men don't respect women. Last week in the media there was an Imam in Australia calling for the introduction of Sharia law into Australia. This is because they don't believe in democracy. If they don't believe in democracy or the freedom that it provides why did them move here here? Basically, they are taking advantage of our generosity and freedom and using it against us. It is untenable for an immigrant not to support their new homeland. If they believe so strongly that our system is wrong then why are they here?
- In almost every country I traveled there were cases before the courts about the mistreatment of women by Muslim men. Many men don't seem to be able to accept that women have a right to equality, opportunity to grow as a person and freedom of choice. When some women have the courage to exercise their rights, they can sometimes pay a heavy price for their choice.

It is perhaps ironic that many of these people have come from countries where the system they seek to introduce here is run by despots or dictators, the country is in a mess and embedded corruption is a way of life.

The Australian Government needs to show some real leadership and make some hard decisions or else our children will pay a heavy price for it in the future.

To summarise, Australia needs a fair, coherent and transparent immigration policy that sends a clear message that the only people who are welcome are those who follow the correct process. The process needs to focus upon the type of person who will be grateful for their opportunity to migrate, are honest, are prepared to accept democracy and not ask for change, and who are prepared to adapt and work hard to integrate into a new society. I am sure there are many potential immigrants who would gladly accept these standards and who will positively contribute to Australia.

Yours sincerely