

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission No. 145**

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

Re: The Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia

I have read the Media Release issued on 17 February 2011 by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration. In that context I refer to the proposed course of action to ensure the Government's social inclusion agenda meets the needs of migrant communities. I refer also to the proposed scrutiny on the role played by Australia's settlement programs in assisting new migrants to integrate and participate fully in society.

My concerns relate specifically to the weight and meaning of the words 'social inclusion agenda' and 'integrate and participate fully'. Multiculturalism, as I knew it in the 1960s and 1970s enhanced the Australian lifestyle without changing the essential nature of Australian culture. That is not what I believe is on offer by some migrant communities today. The need to preserve Australian culture is paramount.

Social inclusion has such a grey meaning! It is difficult to determine the implication and scope of the Government's agenda. What will be brought by migrant communities, under a social inclusion agenda, in to the wider Australian community ... An exchange of ideas, lifestyle, faith, values and cultural morays and 'laws'? Or an adoption of migrants to become 'one of us'? To what extent will natural exchange or strategic exchange change Australian society? Will that exchange be simply a perceptual myth where the migrant community remains, in reality, untouched unchanged unaffected by Australian society while Australian society evolves to mirror the lands from which those migrant communities originate? I draw no comfort from the words 'social inclusion agenda' so carefully selected. These words do not promote any notion or requirement for actual assimilation into Australian society.

Assimilation must be a cornerstone requirement of existing migrant communities within Australian borders, and for new migrants to Australia. Acceptance of Australia's mode of democratic thinking, ideals and laws should be ascertained. Esteem for our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage must be nurtured. It is the values and ethics of Judeo-Christian thinking that has made Australian society so desirable and so worth protecting. That does not mean an exclusive society but it does mean that Australian society and culture should never be left vulnerable to destructive forces, never to implode under the weight and pressure of migrant communities who refuse to assimilate.

I accept it is important to integrate new migrants into Australian society so that those individuals and families will steadily move towards a full participation in the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship. Simultaneously there needs to be a growing loyalty for Australia, her heritage and people in preference to any loyalty or adherence to the demands of another land (or faith). In particular I am wary of giving any room to new or would-be migrants who desire to live in Australia but not actually assimilate; where they prefer closed communities executing allegiance to their own laws, ethics, values and culture that is contrary to Australian law, ethics, values, and culture. This should not be accommodated. It will weaken all that is great about Australia. Take a lesson from what is happening in many European nations. Please!

Kind regards