

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission no. 232**

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the end of WWII my father decided to emigrate from England to Australia bringing his wife, my two brothers and I with him. What a wonderful decision that was because even though both my parents have died I live on to enjoy the Australian way of life.

Moving from one country to another is not easy even though modern transport has expedited that process. It takes quite a long time to adjust to the many differences and that was true in our case even though we came from a country with similar ideals and customs not least of which was the fact that Australian law and government at that time was based on the British system underpinned by a Christian heritage.

Over the last fifteen to twenty years I have noticed a strong pull away from that Christian basis. We no longer seem to celebrate Christmas but instead a holiday season. Now there are moves to remove the word 'Easter'. Yet at the same time Ramadan gets a stronger mention in the media each year. Why is that so?

Is this what the government (or is it the media's interpretation?) means by multiculturalism?

I have taught ESL to students from Asia, the Middle East, South America and Europe and I enjoyed the interaction. I have helped settle three families from Africa and taught at least fourteen Africans to drive. I don't understand their thinking sometimes but I enjoy the relationships. I never had to apologise for my belief system but the persecution that Christians face in almost any country where Islam is strong, including the United Kingdom, will manifest itself even more strongly in Australia than it has thus far, whilst at the same time our Christian heritage is sacrificed on the altar of multiculturalism (what ever that is) because we do not understand the thinking of people of other races, particularly those with a Muslim background.

If we are going to continue to embrace multiculturalism, we need to stand firm on the idea that our roots are Christian. But I think it's too late for that. We've already 'thrown out the baby with the bathwater'. Perhaps we should have a return fare to for those who undermine our values.

I am very sincerely yours,