

The Secretary,

Joint Standing Committee on Migration

Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland wish to submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration;

- a. We believe there should be a uniform multiculturalism policy in all the states in Australia. It will make people understand the policies more better, which ever states they may be living in. All Local, States and federal Government should run together a massive campaign about multiculturalism how important is this in society and how it is going to make Australia a peaceful and harmonious country. Main stream media should play major role in promoting multiculturalism.
- b. **Language** It has to be brought to the attention of all migrating to Australia that English is most essential in order to live and work amongst the Australian society. The common language will assist everyone to participate fully in the Australian society. Importantly they will find job and fully comprehend with work health and safety rules of the state and help them to integrate with wider communities. This will help to build a good relationship between Australian Societies at Large. We believe that it might be more beneficial for the government to put more resources to conduct adult English classes for those with lack of English speaking ability then arranging expensive translator services. This will have long term benefit to the ethnic communities. This we feel should be made compulsory for all who requires assistance in translators. However it is equally imperative that we should keep our own language so that we can maintain our culture values and traditions which plays significant role in our society.
- c. **Education** We feel that awareness of multiculturalism should be taught in schools so that children growing up should understand the value of multiculturalism. In longer term it will create a more inclusive society.
- d. **Refugees** they should be given a choice for settlement in Australia according to their experience and skill. There are farmers, skilled people, professionals etc who come as a refugees to settle in Australia.

We believe multiculturalism is not a failure but a beginning of a long and tedious unfinished business that needs to be understood in its complexities in order to build an inclusive society.

FICQ stands ready to co-operate at all times.

Regards

Surendra Prasad OAM. C.Dec

President- Federation of Indian Communities of Qld | www.ficq.org.au

Patron/Secretary Fiji Seniors Assn of Qld | Patron- Sanatan Youth and Sport club

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Community Liaison Group

Finalist-Queensland's Local Hero 2009