

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission no. 245**

Chair of the Migration Committee
The Hon Maria Vamvakinou

Dear Ms Vamvakinou

I am writing in response to the request for submissions in relation to migration and multiculturalism in Australia.

I am not a migrant. However, as can be seen from below, I am a Pastor of a Christian Church, this church is composed of 50% of people who were born overseas. Some are from Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, the Middle East, Serbia and South America. We are a truly multi-ethnic group.

I think that I am able to make a meaningful comment that I would like the Committee to consider.

I celebrate a multi-ethnic society. Within such a society it is appropriate for migrants to celebrate their cultures.

However, I believe that migrants need to be encouraged to embrace Australian culture and values. A nation must have one language and culture to retain its coherence. Rampant multiculturalism will lead to societal fragmentation and social problems like we see in Europe.

All migrant coming to this country must accept our prevailing culture and values. There should not be any accommodation of views that desire to have separate laws or venues for people of another culture. That is apartheid.

I appeal to the committee to act with sense and support our Australian heritage. This is a reason why many people have come here. That is what the people in my church tell me. They like Australia being Australia!

Finally, I wish to state that it is very disappointing that such a short period is being given for submissions and that the Chair is welcoming submissions from migrant communities. Does that suggest an unhelpful bias?

Why not simply hear from all Australians?

Yours sincerely

Rev Barry Manuel

Rev Barry and Janet Manuel

HEALINGLIFE CHURCH AND MINISTRIES INC

1 Tusmore Drive

Onkaparinga Hills SA

Australia 5163

Email: barry.manuel@optusnet.com.au

phone: +61 8 8325 3895

web: www.healinglifemin.com

ABN 74 025 015 009