

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission No. 32**

The Chair of the Migration Committee
Maria Vamvakinou MP
Dear Ms Vamvakinou

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you.

I and my wife are crosscultural workers among the Muslim migrants from Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran in Mildura. There are 600 Turkish, 35 Iraqi, 35 Afghan, a few Iranian families and some single people from these backgrounds. We have been in this position for over 12 years; we love these people and care for them as much as possible. We believe in the 'help people to help themselves' approach.

Sadly there may be no responses to your inquiry from Mildura Iraqis, Afghans and probably Iranians and Turks also since they are not integrated well enough in our community to know about such an inquiry happening. If they do know of the inquiry there are so very few, especially in the older than university age bracket, who would be able to put down their thoughts in English. This already shows how multiculturalism is **not** working in Australia. It amazes me how these Middle Eastern people often stay glued to Arabic, Farsi or Turkish news by satellite TV and do not know what is going on in Australia. This is just one example.

It is important to keep our Christian heritage in our nation. There is no better nation in the world to live today just because of our Christian heritage foundation and because our culture is based on Christian values. The freedom we enjoy here comes from believing that all people are equal but that all cultures and lifestyles are not equal. We need to investigate, understand and accept the truth of this important statement. We would agree wholehearted, for example, that the lifestyle of a murderer or paedophile is not equal to the lifestyle of a law-abiding Australian citizen.

Our Australian culture needs to be based more on migrants gaining a firmer control of the English language to be better educated and better employed. Of course, migrants who come from non-English speaking countries are welcome to keep their mother tongues, but not at the expense of contributing to Australian society and being a burden on Centrelink, currently spending \$82billion on 7 million Australians each year (quoted in the media recently).

Yours faithfully

2 April 2011