

To Whom it may concern

I am writing to share my experience as an Aboriginal woman, I am 55 years old and have lived in the rural city of [REDACTED] since 1981, back then we had our experiences of racism and being made to wait while everyone got served before us, or served burnt meals, seats wiped over as we were leaving the shops, it was an embarrassing experience, it wasn't in our face all the time but today, I had never felt so afraid for my life since the eruption of One Nation in the past few weeks.

I have seen and heard comments that are quite concerning, there was a comment on a Pauline Hansons fb page that had stated MAWA (Make Australia White Again) even when there are crimes being committed the news reporters will say "they are known to police" which clearly indicates Aboriginal people, we have noticed the type of wording they use for different cultures, it is always stated on social media that it is the "usual suspects" for Aboriginal people, I have never experienced distress the way I have been when I have to go out and about, what used to be friendly conversations when shopping at stores and supermarkets has changed to silence and slamming of groceries I am buying, sometimes they wont even offer bags, a huge change has come and it is not a good one, I am thankful that my grandchildren have light skin, my fear of them being mistreated or hurt causes me so much worry and distress, there should be no fine line between hate speech and freedom of speech, i think those lines get a bit blurred because the legal aspects between both is far and wide.

I believe the hatred coming from the One Nation followers needs to be addressed, everytime I am online that is all I see is the despicable words of hate and suggestions of annihilating the Aboriginal race, no one should live in fear, not one person of any race.

I have an elderly neighbor she is 80 years old, and she is a white woman, her daughter who I became friends with is 66, unfortunately her daughter is fighting cancer and has been in Flinders Medical healing from an operation, not her first, so I have been making sure old mum is okay, this is my name for her, and she likes to be called that, so every thursday I take her to collect her webster packs and do some shopping, one day she was asked if she was okay and had noticed an Aboriginal person hanging around her, when she saw it was me they were talking about she become angry at them for implying that I was a danger without knowing exactly who i was, which I was her neighbor and good friend of the family, but she was not stunned only disappointed that they had just assumed that i was an issue because of my skin color, the other shopper apologized and went on her way

It is sad in many cases where Aboriginal people like me become immune to it and are forced to become resilient to such a distant parallel society here in Australia, the home of the free right?

When will the laws become tougher on this kind of verbal brutality that vehemently causes mental, emotional and social disruption in to a life of someone or group, that do not know how to control those emotions like myself and many others have been able to, the youth of today are more reactive and despise elders and authority, look at the crime rates now, and all we are hearing is one nation one flag, how can we do that when the divide between Australians is too far apart to listen to reconcile, who is going to navigate that closure effectively?

I can tell you now One Nation won't, I don't know how we got here but this is where we all stand, Australia is becoming the sister city to America, and we will fall the same way if Australia does not make a stand, my fear is by the time this happens we will lose many people not only of

cultural heritage but many others to violent deaths that could have been avoided with harsher laws, I pray for this country because we are sinking fast and at the moment the target is Aboriginal people, it is no longer safe anymore.

I would like my name to not be shared publicly

Kind Regards