



Joint Standing Committee on Migration

Chair: Ms Vamvakinou MP

Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP

Department of Immigration and Citizenship to appear in Multiculturalism inquiry

The Parliamentary Committee on Migration will take evidence from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on key issues that have emerged from its twelve month inquiry on Wednesday, 21 March

Committee Chair Maria Vamvakinou said:

“The Committee has taken extensive evidence in what has been a broad ranging inquiry. This hearing will be an opportunity for the Government up date its evidence to the inquiry and respond to questions”

Ms Vamvakinou said that there have been significant structural changes over the past decade and the inquiry has revealed important perspectives on the experience of new arrivals including refugees, and permanent and temporary skilled migrants. Evidence has also revealed the unresolved settlement issues of past decades, especially for rapidly ageing culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

“Bi partisan commitment to multiculturalism provides important leadership and promotes social cohesion. It is important that Australia remains an open society that can provide access to education, work, affordable housing and other services, and encourage community participation. It is by meeting these everyday needs that we live with dignity, feel part of our communities and contribute our skills and creativity to the wider society” she said.

A whole of government approach, supported by qualitative research is crucial if we are to have the knowledge and insight necessary to develop responsive policies and programs” she said

The Federal member for Calwell said that the Committee will also hear from Bluestar, an ACT based intercultural organisation, to further explore issues in relating to Sharia law.

The Committee’s public hearing will commence at **10.45 am in Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.**

Audio of proceedings in Committee Room 1R4 on 21 March will be webcast on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

Full program and other information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee’s website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 4560

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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