

Dear secretary,

From your website I have learned that the Committee is seeking written submissions to this Inquiry from interested persons and organisations preferably sent by email.

I consider that the policy on multiculturalism in Australia has not been successful and has led to entrenched divisions and increased discrimination and violence between different groups of people. These are of concern to me. I think the term multiculturalism needs to be abandoned and should no longer be used as a government policy. Rather we should encourage good community relations among all people irrespective of which country of origin they have come from.

I have no problems with celebrating and enjoying the differences between people, differences in appearance, differences in dress, differences in food, differences in interests, etc. In fact, I think these differences are a good thing and lead to a richness. However, some of the attitudes and ideas that people bring from some countries of origin are not compatible with the freedom and tolerance within Australia that made our land such an attractive place in which to live. Some of these include a rejection of democratic values, a culture of violence to get one's way, the unequal treatment of women, an aversion of freedom of speech, multiple wives, disregard for the rule of law, to name a few. It is not in the interests of our country to treat such attitudes as of equal validity to our Australian way of life. People who come here should respect the rule of law and have the attitude that they intend to fit into our culture. Everyone should be expected to become Australian, focusing on their future in our country and not focusing on where they have come from. Immigration policy should focus on confirming that the people who come to our land are going to fit into our land be prepared to assimilate. This does not mean that all differences must be removed but that the overriding issues of rule of law, respect for one another, an attitude of assimilating, and a desire to build and promote Australia should be what is required. The current policies have not furthered this cause.

There should be the one rule of law for all people. Different laws should not be applied to different people based on their race. Government services and benefits should not be granted based on a person's race. There should be no law in our country that depends on a person's race. Laws should apply based on criteria that are not based on their racial origin but on their situation which would apply to people of any race. Our policies should be on what will unite us as a nation and not what will fragment and lead to ghettos.

We need to appreciate that Australia's desirable democratic environment comes out of our Christian heritage which affirms all people are equal before the law and the same standard of law applies to all because all are created equal. We should unashamedly celebrate our Christian festivals which are our heritage and have long tradition and there should be no attempt from government policy to squash these sorts of traditions on the argument that they may offend. There are many worldviews that do not produce the sorts of outcome we have in Australia and we need only look at the nations of the world to see the consequences of those different worldviews, where people are not treated as equals, where justice is not available for all, where women are not treated equally, where democracy is not tolerated, where people have their hands amputated as punishments, where people are killed by offended mobs because of something they said, etc. People who come here must be prepared to accept the Australian way of dealing with the world and not have the notion that their worldview is superior and our ways inferior and have the goal of imposing their alien worldview on our country and removing our Christian and western traditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your inquiry.