

7th April 2011

Maria Vamvakinou MP

Federal Member for Calwell. Chair of Standing Committee on Migration.

Chairperson

Migration Committee

Re: Multiculturalism in Australia.

Dear Maria,

I believe you are quoted as saying “It is timely to consider whether a new policy on multiculturalism is needed, and how to ensure that the Government’s social agenda also meets the needs of migrant communities.”

Australia is the most wonderful country in the world. I have lived in Canada, Zambia, Hong Kong and the USA and none of these are a patch on good old Aussie.

My father migrated here from England as an immigrant at the age of 16, and was very happy to be an Australian. He fought for the freedom and values that we Australians hold dear during the 2nd world war. He was proud to be an Australian.

My wife’s father and mother migrated here from Europe in 1928-29 and met and married here. They loved the freedom and openness of their “New Home” and always considered themselves as Aussies. They too were proud to be Australians. Unlike some of their relatives they only spoke English at home and brought their family up to be Australians. They assimilated into our culture and Christian values.

Does your Government's social inclusion agenda include the need for migrants to assimilate into our Australian culture?

If not you have a fragmented society not a cohesive one, and that is to the detriment of Australia.

We can indeed share the good parts of their particular ethnic culture (as I have enjoyed and benefited from my wife's ethnic culture) but that does not mean we have to agree and conform to their values and customs or share their world view.

If people come here to change our way of life to suit their values and customs that is not a migrant that is an invasion.

"Multiculturalism" originally meant that we accept people from other countries because they wanted to come here and "be Australians" – assimilate. If they do not wish to assimilate then they should seek another country to migrate to!

Yours truly