

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission no. 263**

Even though I am not a member of a 'migrant' community I am an Australian and therefore I think it is appropriate to submit my thoughts on multiculturalism and it's impact on Australian society and the best way to bring migrants into Australian society and help them adjust to a different culture. Because they should adjust to the culture (the majority 'white'/Christian culture) that has made Australia such an enjoyable place to live, although this doesn't mean they have to abandon all aspects of their first culture.

A multiculturalism policy should not be about meeting the needs of the migrant community, it should be about meeting the needs of the Australian community. A multiculturalism policy should be one that does not encourage migrants to keep their culture instead it should encourage them to adopt (insofar as it is appropriate) and integrate into the wider Australian community. If you moved to live and work in another country wouldn't you expect yourself to adapt to the other country's culture and not vice versa?

The natural benefits of a diverse community will not be lost even if the multicultural policy is one of assimilation. There should not be suburbs which are dominated by one migrant culture and migrant culture should not take priority over the current culture. If there is a clash, as there easily can be, then the migrant culture should not be given preference. This only encourages division between cultural groups.

Migrants need to be provided with more education about Australian culture (especially for refugees) and encouraged (and provided with support) to move away from migrant communities and integrate with the rest of Australia.

Regards,