

Federal Parliamentary Migration Committee  
Aus Federal Parliament.

Re Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia

To whom it may concern,

As a mature age woman, I delight in our wonderful nation which offers an opportunity for those who live here to work and aspire to better lifestyles in a peaceful, egalitarian community, sharing in the democracy that has developed over the past 200 years and more.

Our nation's history since European settlement has developed a wonderful nation of people, fair-minded, sports-loving, happy-go-lucky yet caring for each other - look at our record of volunteering, and the mateship we celebrate as epitomised at Anzac Cove. In the more recent horrors of Qld floods and the Victorian bushfires, we again saw this caring neighbourly concern for one's disaster-struck neighbours as we all pitched in where we could to help those who'd lost so much - who could not help but be moved by news reel of those long lines of folk, armed with home tools and gloved hands to help the unknown victims of Brisbane floods?

This is our nation, a nation made up of people who care for each other, who want to be good neighbours and help one another when called on. We have been proud to welcome those different newcomers who've ventured across the seas, often leaving families to start a new life here. When I was growing up in the 50's we called these folk 'immigrants' and I found my generation happy and proud to see these newcomers arriving and attempting to assimilate into our nation's fabric. A good strong fabric, based on the Judeo-Christian ethics of our founding fathers, the very heart of which is centred around the Christian commandment 'love your neighbour as you love yourself'. Those of us who grew up in my generation knew how to accept all people, no matter their cultural background, because we saw them come here and make the required effort to assimilate into the broader Australian community, one where Italian, Chinese, Greek, Dutch, German and the many others were welcomed and included in the society our history had developed. These immigrants of the earlier times did not begin a new and separate society, that was apart from the rest of us.

I say may we continue to welcome strangers into our nation, but realise they come here knowing this is the land of Australia, one they wish to become part of, not to change into something like the society they left and where they did not wish to remain. Let's drop the term 'multiculturalism' which ignores the heritage which has birthed this nation into a place so many appear to wish to call their new home and promote the strong and fair laws which founded our nation.