

Maria Vamvakinou, Chairperson
Federal Migration Committee

Dear Maria:

This is my short submission to your inquiry into multiculturalism.

My parents, probably like yours, migrated to Australia separately from Greece (in the 1920's).

They were both apprehensive at first as they faced a strange language and different customs.

My father had vowed that he would remain here and work hard for five years, then return to his village and family on the island of Lefkas with the money he had saved, for the rest of his days.

Instead he returned to his island for a holiday 42 years' later, and couldn't wait to resume his life in Australia. Both my parents came to love this privileged land in which I was born. If still alive they would state that all cultures are NOT equal. Why does such an array of migrants come to Australia if all cultures are equal.

Some attractive Australian values such as free speech, fairness, the rule of law, democracy, equality before the law are not as common in our world as we would want them to be.

These values are not in place by chance, but because of our Christian heritage.

This must be retained at all costs and not compromised with ideas which derive from, for example, Islamic Sharia law or secular humanism/atheism.

I strongly urge your committee to work to that end.

Sincerely,