

Chairperson  
Multiculturalism in Australia

It is not my usual custom to provide submissions to committees government or otherwise, however i felt the need to respond to the above.

I am not a racist or against supporting someone in genuine need but I am feeling disenfranchised in my role as an Australian, I have served my country as a member of the Australian Defence Force and have seen active service, I have also served in other countries particularly Asian where several religious beliefs are practised, as a consequence I was required to abide by the law of the land and to respect and observe the various cultures that existed.

I am of the view that genuine migrants and refugees should be able to access Australia by legitimate means I notice that the genuine ones do this, as a child growing up I saw the influx of Italians, Greeks. Germans and a variety of other European migrants arrive in this country, part of the process was these people were required to work in rural areas undertaking tasks which were nation building e.g. the Snowy Mountain Scheme. These people assimilated in this country willingly, they wanted to be here and they received very little in the way of government or other handouts. Many were greeted with great suspicion and perhaps contempt, but they assimilated and had a go, yes they have their clubs social and sporting and they can be quite vocal and emotional, some that I know are contemptuous of the lack of effort of the current migrants, particularly those who have come in via the back door.

I find it very interesting that many of the "boat" people are males of a young age (17 -20s) with no papers and tales of woe that are difficult for authorities to screen and check, these people pay hundreds if not thousands of dollars to get here, then on arrival are treated quite well by the government to the detriment of probably more deserving members of the population.

I know from firsthand experience that the illegal's do tend to reside in enclave type environments, and isolate themselves from the mainstream, expecting everyone else to bend to their will to support and nurture them so they can fit in. They have no intention of assimilating into Australian society, or conforming to our standards and values, let alone celebrating the joys of our culture and heritage.

They should take a leaf from the book that the post war European migrants used and have a go at being Australian, even the Vietnamese managed it and they have become wonderful citizens.

Multiculturism has been declared a failure in the UK maybe we should have a closer look at where it failed so that we avoid the mistakes, and incidentally the last time Britain hosted boat people with any degree of success it was the Roman invasion, then the Vikings and the last was William the Conqueror Multiculturism succeeded then.

Yours sincerely