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TOPIC:

SUBMISSION:

ENQUIRY INTO MULTICULTURALISM IN AUSTRALIA

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I am not in favour of Multiculturalism in Australia.

Migrants have come to these shores as prisoners, free settlers and as part of the Immigration process and have made a significant contribution to the development of this country. The migrants of the past have embraced the same values and beliefs and have actively integrated well within the Australian society.

Australia is signatory to many United Nations conventions in regard to equal opportunity for women, racial equality and freedom of speech these and many others are not respected by a number of the Countries from which our more recent Immigrants have come.

Integration is less evident within the Migrants of recent years with a number of cultural practices actually violating United Nation conventions and encouraging segregation:

- (a) 10-14year old girls being allocated for marriage to husbands twice their age).Which is against the Laws of this land.
- (b) Cultural specific schools
- (c) Wearing of cultural specific headdress.
- (d) The denial of women's rights
- (e) Modification of swimming pool and other facilities to meet their cultural needs

When immigrants come to this country to escape the harsh environment of their homelands and embrace the benefits of the lifestyle and freedom allowed under the laws of this land, if the intention of our Immigrants is to integrate within the society in which they have come, why is it that the homeland ways are perpetuated here.

This does not mean that all cultural identity should be lost however should we immigrate to a Middle Eastern country we would have no choice but to live in the way of the people of said lands rather than maintain the practices of Australia. Is it unrealistic to expect that in Australia the customs in place should be Changed to meet the needs of the new comers? E.g.: no longer having carols at Christmas time, not removing head dress in places where in accordance with Australian customs it is expected that a gent would remove his hat. Expectation the full head/face covering be allowed within Australian Courts.

It is evident that a considerable funding is given to services that focus on Aged persons from Multicultural backgrounds, (language specific) in some areas this is in spite of the lack of (or no) services for persons of Anglo-Saxon

background.

While this practice prevails, the equity in service provision to our population as a whole is not being provided with those from Anglo Saxon background being the group most disenfranchised

If Multiculturalism is to be maintained then there is a need that programs promoting inclusiveness and integration be more actively encouraged and promoted.

Those who arrive illegally by boat have chosen not to stay in the country to which they have fled for Political Asylum, instead the decision is made to jump the cue and bypassing the process for legal migration, in so doing deprive others who are waiting (at times for many months) for approval for Legal Immigration. In the process they are putting the lives of both young and old at risk as has been evident in the past with deadly results.

In conclusion Multiculturalism encourages division within the community rather than inclusion with a negative impact on all members of the community.