Dear Migration Committee;
I am pleased to have an opportunity to comment on this matter. I am Australian born to migrant parents and I hope that these perspectives will be useful to you. I assume that you are checking on a old policy with a view to ensuring that policy decisions made a generation ago as still valid and to investigate whether tuning is necessary.

In all matter of policy, review and feedback is vital to ensuring that the original purpose of the policy is still valid. This general principle of policy may prove difficult in cases where the policy deals with opinion, ethnic identity group identity and other cases where social pressures may be inflated and hard to check. These policies risks suggest that a bipartisan approach will be the fruitful. Bold initiatives are best done with broad and unwavering consensus.

When multiculturalism was first voiced publicly it seemed to be an extension of the idea of tolerance and thus automatically the remedy to bigotry and other unproductive social ills. At that time the Anglo Saxon Celtic influences in society were more vivid than today. The notion of comparing the mores of one generation to a previous one has fascinated writers ever since the Rip Van Winkle story. In this social setting the majority of the population were secure in their cultural identities and saw no risk in broadening the notion of tolerance. In order to work, the idea required that the tolerant society would accept "multiculturalism".

The success of the acceptance is visible in many ways.
A quick glance around faces of law makers and their staff in Parliament House should be clear evidence of success.

The two areas of concern:

- The sources of Australian identity
- Tension between various multicultural participants

1. Australian public policy has embraced multiculturalism at time of generational change. Key elements of old Australian identity have faded and not been replaced. Values (such as civic responsibility, loyalty, patience, endurance) that were moulded in times of adversity (bushfire, flood, war) have not waned severely. This lack is reflected in the drop on participation of volunteer organisations: a grim trend noted by diverse organisations such as Lions club, Scouts,Guides, Surf Life Saving organisations, Country Fire Associations. The absence of these values incurs an increasing and avoidable cost. Therefore it seems prudent for policy makers to consider the how to boost self-esteem among the original Anglo Saxon Celtic demographic.

2. There have been some tension, belligerent word, vandalizing property between newcomers to Australia; such as the episodes with Ustasha and other secret organizations bent on violence. Recently, some groups of newcomers have been strident in campaigns to promote their own cultures – which are not always compatible with goals of multiculturalism.

   a. A simple example is the call from some Islamic groups to drop some traditional Australian public holidays which come from Christian sources. . The potentially disturbing element in this proposal is the advocacy of using law to realize this goal rather than using public dialog.

   b. More disturbingly, from the publicly available information it seems that immigrant groups are intolerant of values of the host society. When Imam Hilaily spoke to advocate modest attire for women, his message came to the public attention as a "blamed the victim for getting raped" view

   c. It is true, that self-styled spokesmen do not necessarily represent for the community that they claim, this The problem with statements of this type is the apparent immunity from answering a case for incitement to crime or vilification of another

group within the multicultural society. It may seem odd that the victims have no right of reply except through the formal and expensive court system.

3. It would be a great contribution to Australian civil society to ensure

    a. That Social policies is checked for progress against results

    b. That social initiatives are made with broad bipartisan approval

    c. That positive contributions of Australian identity to civil society are better publicized and incorporated into school curricula and citizenship education programs

    d. That teaching and study about civics are introduced into the educational system

    e. that any group that seek shelter under the protection of Australian laws and policies be accountable to give equal respect to any other groups within Australian society including the host society itself.

Yours sincerely