

To the Senate Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia,

I apologise sincerely for the lateness of this submission, however it was not until it was recently referred to in a letter in a newspaper, that I had any idea of the existence of an inquiry into migration. I find this very disappointing as someone who takes a very keen interest in such issues.

Migration and multiculturalism are inextricably entwined, and I feel that historically Australia has greatly benefited from migration, however that was well before we have been confronted with issues of population and environmental stress.

As residents of Western Australia, we have long been aware of illegal entries via boats to Christmas Island and our northern coast. These arrivals have reached disturbing levels and for that reason we have taken an interest in what appears to be an increasing challenge. We also understand that there are an equal number (if not greater) of illegal arrivals by other means. It would seem that control of the issue is being lost.

The entry into Australian waters of illegal boats, transporting potential refugees or otherwise, can result in tragedy, from both perspectives. To say the least, decisions regarding this are extremely challenging.

The proposed 'Malaysian' solution appears to be fraught with anomalies, and further news stories only add to our complete dismay at the proposals. We can only hope there has been misreporting on the matter.

To maintain our sovereignty, values and standard of living our Immigration & Multicultural Policies needs to be carefully thought through.

Not too long ago, on the radio, there was a discussion about International Student Visas/ 'courses' being used as a shortcut, or way around, the usual immigration process. In this discussion, the point was made that if they were unable to have their family join them, they would not want to stay.

This confirms a thought I had regarding illegal immigration. (Boat or otherwise.)

A possible part solution to the 'Illegal Immigrant' problem could be a statement, or legislation, to the effect that, we will be 'humanitarian' to people arriving illegally and not through designated immigration channels. *(Of course this would be once a security clearance is obtained, and provide food, shelter, safety, health care etc. in Australia, which could be indefinite as a visitor.)* However, all those who arrive through other than legally recognised channels will never be entitled to Australian Citizenship. It should also mean that they would be unable to access 'family reunion' programs and the like.

Illegal Immigrants should not be entitled to welfare payments of any kind, beyond 'humanitarian' care. Shelter, food and medical care should be provided, possibly through a voucher system, however there should also be a corresponding responsibility for the recipients to contribute to this in some way.

There are no easy solutions to clearly apparent problems, so I commend the process you are going through to resolve these issues. I would suggest that you go further than an Inquiry.

Perhaps for the first time, the Australian voting public could be asked whether they want a diverse 'multicultural' society or, for example, an 'integrated' multicultural society. I understand this has not been done previously.

Prefacing this, we need to determine, impartially, just what an environmentally sustainable population for Australia is, then plan for our long term future. Not just focusing on what is most attractive for the next election.

Recently, related to another issue, the comment was made along the lines, '.....People have to deal with problems created, long after the politicians who made the decision are forgotten.' This also appears to be one such issue.