

Dear JSCM,

Sorry for this late submission. It is an hour or so late (just into 9th April), but I trust that it will reach you before you are next open for business.

Yours Faithfully

My submission is in this black font, I have responded to **your terms of reference shown in this font and red colour.**

I make this submission as a third-generation Australian with friends and colleagues from many cultural backgrounds.

The Committee can only accept submissions in English.
That's excellent.

In fact this is one of the keys!

We must fluently share a common language to communicate adequately. We do people a dis-service and inhibit their inclusion in the wider community by not insisting that migrants become fluent in English. Discrimination and exclusion are often directly due to a migrant's inability to communicate fluently in English. I have worked with migrant colleagues with good relevant qualifications - but who felt discriminated against, and were discriminated against - because their English skills were poor. I have discussed this directly with such colleagues: some responded by working on their English and others responded by ignoring suggestions and offers of help and tried to rely on technical expertise but felt bitter when they were passed over for promotion - and some returned 'home', even after gaining citizenship.

Communication is the key to successful inclusion, and long-term retention of migrants. Hence we should insist on competence in English for migrants and insist that all Australian Schools have most lessons in English except for limited curriculum time in other languages.

Terms of Reference

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration shall inquire into the economic, social and cultural impacts of migration in Australia and make recommendations to maximise the positive effects of migration. The inquiry shall examine and report on:

Multiculturalism, social inclusion and globalisation

1. **The role of multiculturalism in the Federal Government's social inclusion agenda; and**

If multiculturalism results in communities where the majority of shops and the majority of people normally speak a language other than English, then we have failed to socially include those groups. We need to discourage ghettos and to encourage English.

2. **The contribution of diaspora communities to Australia's relationships with Europe, the UK, Middle East and the immediate Asia-Pacific Region.**

Our objective should always be for migrants who want to BE Australians rather than 'expats' who focus on 'home'. An improvement of Australia's relationship with their former countries will hopefully be a bonus, rather than an objective. Our OBJECTIVE is for migrants to become truly AUSTRALIAN - when I was a kid migrants were called New Australians, which is what we want!

Settlement and participation

3. Innovative ideas for settlement programs for new migrants, including refugees, that support their full participation and integration into the broader Australian society; and

Full participation and integration into the broader Australian society is an excellent goal! This can only happen with a common language AND with a common objective. It may seem trite, but it is counterproductive to inclusiveness, participation and integration if migrants reject Australian culture and laws. For example I have been in a courtroom situation where a whole block of migrants showed calculated disrespect for Australian law and aloofness from other Australians.

If migrants do not share a desire to become part of Australian culture and accept Australian law, then full inclusion or participation or integration will not happen. Hence migrants should only be accepted, and only be allowed to remain, if they agree to and continue to uphold Australian law.

This must include that they will never prevent integration or teach or practice violence or mutilation of enemies or family members or of individuals who choose to form associations outside their ethnic or religious group.

To achieve this requires more training in English; in Australia history; and in the background of our democracy. It should be patently obvious that we need to share a common language and share common values - which can and should be thoroughly taught - BEFORE we agree to permanently accept migrants. Migrants will do much better here if they demonstrate the active desire to share: our language; our democratic values; our freedom of speech; our freedom of religion; our rule of law. To do otherwise puts our peace and freedom at risk.

4. Incentives to promote long term settlement patterns that achieve greater social and economic benefits for Australian society as a whole.

All the above applies here. We need disincentives against ghettos and shopping centres where English is not the norm. We need disincentives against bizarre dress codes that isolate people. If we insist on English fluency and acceptance of our democratic and free society, then migrants should not feel the need to gather in ghettos which make inclusiveness participation and integration very difficult.

National productive capacity

5. The role migration has played and contributes to building Australia's long term productive capacity;

The 'New Australians' of the 50s and 60s made and continue to make a huge contribution to Australia. They knuckled down and learnt the language and they integrated and taught us about other foods and cultures. 'They' did this by including 'us' - they showed us that 'inclusive' needs to be two-way! We don't get long-term gain unless migrants include us just as much as we want to include them.

6. The profile of skilled migration to Australia and the extent to which Australia is fully utilising the skills of all migrants; and

As above: English; English ENGLISH! **ENGLISH!! English skills are key to utilising migrant skills.**

7. Potential government initiatives to better assist migrant communities establish business enterprises.

Why not help migrants become Australian rather than staying 'migrant communities'? The government (taxpayers' money) should not discriminate between Australians! Ethnic background should be irrelevant. Taxpayer assistance should depend on merit and on the national interest rather than supporting one group rather than another.