

**Australian Parliament
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Submission No. 37**

To The Chair of the Migration Committee, Maria Vamvakinou MP

When considering a new policy on Multiculturalism to ensure the Government's social inclusion agenda also meets the needs of migrant communities –

My husband and I would very much like you to consider also our needs, myself as a fourth generation Australian and my husband as a second generation Australian, from an English background.

We are 'baby-boomers' and have lived through many changes in recent times to our country's social make up. In Australia we were brought up in a 'christian' culture, where we honour God and His laws. It seemed quite simple up until 20-30 years ago, being a Christian, going to church on Sunday, and respected because of that. Until Multiculturalism was introduced, as the way forward. Over these years, there has been a slow but steady erosion of what, we believe, most Australians hold dear.

The 'world' we grew up in saw all people who came to live in this country, welcomed, **not to change our country to what they wanted**, but to live here and assimilate to our way of life, because it was so good, free, peaceful, and where if you worked hard you could do well for yourself.

Like it or not, our 'culture' our heritage, comes from christian background. We believe, this is a great country because of the strength of our Christian laws, moral code and standards.

We do not see how changing our cultural traditions is helping our country, rather the opposite. We believe Australians can be proud of our past for the above reasons, but as each day goes by, we shudder to think of what sort of country we are leaving to our children.

We appreciate this opportunity to express our views, and pray for wise decisions because they will affect our future. Signed _____, Duverney, Victoria

1 April 2011