I wish to submit my views on 'Multiculturalism" in Australia.

I feel incredibly blessed have been born and raised in Australia. When I see many problems in other parts of the world I am saddened to see what other people have to endure. I do not know why I was so lucky to be born here and I probably do not deserve it. But one thing I feel passionately about is that I would love that our nation remains the safe place it currently is for future generations.

As a person that has also had the privilege to have travelled extensively and have valued that experience, I have always enjoyed returning home to a culture that truly respects each other (although I understand there are the odd bad eggs out there). I particularly feel this way as a woman. In Australia I have always felt safe to express myself as I please given that is within the law. Many countries I have travelled to or areas that have heavily ingrained Islamic cultures where women are not considered as equals have been very challenging to handle. A common concern that I often had when travelling, as a blonde female, was a assumption by men that I would sleep with them, while living in a Turkish community in London I was not able to walk down a street without being groped and propositioned for sex . Also when I was in Amsterdam in a predominant Iraq community a man demanded I have sex with him and when I didn't he started to get physical, thankfully a local Netherlands man came to my rescue. I have never had such problems here in Australia, and I would like it to stay that way.

I believe that Australia has much to offer and gives people in life threatening situations an opportunity of a safe place to live and a new start, however I do believe that those who come to our nation to take refuge should be truly committed to let go of the negative values of their particular cultures, especially in relation to the treatment of women. There should be a commitment to embrace the Australian culture that supports freedom but is intolerant of violence. Many overseas cultures believe in violence as the method for dispute resolution and as previously mentioned do not view women as equals. In such cases multiculturalism should not be embraced. Those who live in Australia should assimilate to our cultural values and should not have the opportunity to change our legislation or rules in order for Australia to be culturally sensitive. Accepting diversity is a component of the Australian culture, however having people from another country coming here to attempt to change our culture to mould into theirs is not acceptable or desirable especially as our past generations have worked hard to make Australia the wonderful safe country that it is.

I do not believe Australia as a whole is a racist country, I do not believe Australians hate on the basis of skin colour, but rather when Australians show intolerance it is usually directed to a negative cultural behaviour. The Australian culture is one that does not tolerate violent or anti-social behaviour. I have been in share house arrangements with overseas students (mainly form India) who have embraced the Australian culture and recognise how lucky we are to have a safe environment to live, this should be the attitude rather than people coming here with an intention to reshape Australia.

Let's not become a multicultural country that allows for any cultural

intergration, rather let us hold true to the Australian culture that set us apart from the rest of the world and show love and kindness to all people and remain intolerant to cultures that promote violance and discrimination to women and to those who are weak such as the cast system in India.

Regards