

Strength in Diversity

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS ACTION PLAN MULTICULTURALISM – STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Our nation is a rich amalgam of cultures and people from across the globe. Too often debate about multiculturalism denies the very fact that diversity surrounds us and cannot be undone - and nor should it be.

Australia is a great and unique country capable of developing into a beacon of freedom and prosperity for the entire world. But this is only achievable through supporting and learning from a full diversity of ideas, cultures and beliefs within our community;

We must show the courage and strength to protect our freedoms in the face of assault by extremists and ideologues, governments and media outlets, who wish to spread fear and divisiveness;

In recent years we have witnessed ugly scenes of racially-motivated violence and vilification, as a society we must work together to ensure these are not repeated. We cannot allow these sentiments and actions to go unchecked, but neither can we resort to empty name-calling or retaliatory actions or policies. All waves of migration have met with resistance and often distrust, but through the years, each new migrant community has taken their place alongside those already here, and the debate around their arrival has been shown up as short-sighted and inflammatory.

As we welcome newcomers to be part of our open, diverse and democratic society, we should not require them to abandon all trace of the culture they grew up in, nor to deny their children access to it.

While the Democrats welcome a mature and constructive debate on Australian values, one thing we can all agree on is the idea of a fair go, and equality for all.

Australia is a nation of many faces and many backgrounds who have come together to build a future we can all share, equally. It is the path which offers the best chance for a safe and secure future.

The Democrats believe that people of all cultures, religions, ethnicity and beliefs should be free to retain their languages and culture, and have freedom to express themselves, whilst integrating into our continually evolving and developing nation.



Other ACTION PLANS are available online at
www.democrats.org.au

Last updated 24/08/2007

Authorised by Jack Evans, 5 Poinciana Place, Wanneroo WA 6065
Printed by Senator Lyn Allison, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600