

SEMINAR FIVE

**AN INTEGRATED
CULTURALLY DIVERSE
SOCIETY: From
Demographic Fact to Social
Cohesion**



USEFUL WEBSITES

- Australian Multicultural Foundation (www.amf.net.au)
- Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (www.cmyi.net.au)
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship (www.immi.gov.au)
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (www.fecca.org.au)
- Human Rights Commission (www.hreoc.gov.au)
- Living-in-Harmony Program (www.harmony.gov.au)
- Victorian Multicultural Commission (www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)



RESISTANCE to a CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY

- threats to national identity
- threats to a majoritarian religion
- threats to social cohesion: the limits
- threats to social status
- threats to employment opportunities
- threats from rural sector



1989 DEFINITION

**Commitment to the Nation
+
Equality of Opportunity**

Cultural Identity

**Social Justice –
Access & Equity**

Economic Efficiency



1989 DEFINITION

EIGHT PRINCIPLES:

- 1. All Australians should have a commitment to Australia and share responsibility for furthering national interests**
- 2. All Australians should be able to enjoy the basic right of freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion and culture**
- 3. All Australians should enjoy equal life chances and have equitable access and an equitable share of the nation's resources**
- 4. All Australians should have the opportunity fully to participate in society and in the decisions which directly affect them**



1989 DEFINITION (ctd)

5. All Australians should be able to develop and make use of their potential for Australia's social and economic development
6. All Australians should have opportunity to acquire and develop proficiency in English and LOTEs, and to develop cross-cultural understanding
7. All Australians should be able to develop and share their cultural heritage
8. Australians institutions should acknowledge, reflect and respond to the cultural diversity of the Australian community



1999 DEFINITION

“A united and harmonious Australia built on the foundations of our democracy and developing its continually evolving nationhood by recognizing, embracing valuing and investing in its heritage and diversity based on TEN VALUES and FOUR PRINCIPLES”



1999 DEFINITION

TEN VALUES

1. Commitment to Australia
2. Freedom
3. A fair go
4. Democracy
5. Rule of law
6. Tolerance
7. Mutual respect
8. Political equality
9. Equal opportunity
10. Non-discrimination

FOUR PRINCIPLES

1. Principle of civic duty
2. Principle of cultural respect
3. Principle of social equity
4. Principle of productive diversity



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION/LLEGAL TOOLS

- Periodic reviews and evaluations
- Access and equity plans for govt departments
- Yearly departmental reports
- Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society
- Longitudinal Study of Australia (LSA)
- Consultations with ethnic communities
- Formation of State Multicultural Commissions
- HREOC reports
- Racial and Religious Vilification legislation



EVOLUTION of NATIONAL IDENTITY

- National identity as process
- Reformulation of national history
- Many and expanding ways of being an (Australian)
- Support of multicultural arts and literature
- Films on migration themes
- Importance of popular culture (festivals, school multicultural days)
- Participation in sport
- Media: journalists and their role
- Local/national networks



POLICING MEASURES

- Immigrants and refugees overall have a lower crime rate but always some ethnic groups are exceptions
- Police prejudicial stereotypes, insensitivity and harassment
- Community policing policy (advisory councils & multicultural police liaison officers)
- Police recruitment
- Police pre-service training (esp. cross-cultural communication techniques + migration mentality)



CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESSES

- Lack of understanding of police role
- Lack of knowledge of rights
- Right to an interpreter
- Interpreter partisanship & bias
- Lack of knowledge of the law
- Ethnic community education
- Description of suspects
- Cross-cultural miscommunication
- Trauma of arrest
- Misunderstanding of bail
- Adversarial vs. inquisitorial systems
- Demeanour of witnesses
- Composition of juries



