

# Policy GRAB

LNP Queensland, January 2017

Edition 3, Volume 1

## **From the Editor**

The Policy Standing Committee for the LNPQ wishes you all a very happy and successful year in 2017 - politically as well as personally.

You are invited to enjoy this edition of Policy Grab and to use the contents for discussion over coffee with family and colleagues, promoting party wisdom that isn't always accurately represented in the media. Perhaps the contents could fire policy discussion at local meetings.

In the LNPQ's best grass roots style, material in Policy Grab comes from members for members to enjoy: resolutions debated and passed at convention and knowledge and experience of expert committees gathered under the umbrella of the Policy Standing Committee (PSC) led by Richard Williams.

To get you in the picture so you can make Policy Grab useful to you, the PSC is comprised of the Chairs representing each of the 28 expert committees covering a portfolio of state government and some overlapping federal areas. Each committee holds regular meetings throughout the year, working collaboratively with the relevant Shadow Minister to generate practical, evidence-based policies and positions in keeping with LNP values – to do the best for the people of Queensland with the least harm. The committees form an important link between elected representatives and the public they represent – ie. you.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many talented people of diverse expertise volunteering to contribute to their respective policy area. More are always welcome. If you feel you would like to be part of a policy committee, respond with your area of interest by emailing [dialogue@lnp.org.au](mailto:dialogue@lnp.org.au) and a policy Chair will contact you. Distance is no problem, as phone-in arrangements can be made for meetings. It is vital to have a broad diversity of members and geography engaged.

Each month we hope to share with you some of the concepts developed by the committees. Contents of Policy Grab are considered positions, though cannot claim to be policy, which will always defer to the politically achievable.

In the December edition we highlighted different aspects of environmental policy from the Environment and Heritage committee led by Rod Bligh. As the month of Australia Day, issues surrounding immigration and integration of New Australians into our diverse community come to the fore. For contributions to this topic we can thank Dan Ryan, Chair of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities, Social Cohesion and Australian Citizenship for assembling high calibre material from: parliamentarian George Christensen; Minister for Migration Peter Dutton and from Dan himself. Over coming months we hope to feature economic and manufacturing policy ideas.

The PSC hopes to satisfy members' hunger for policy substance, engaging them in the ever important role of policy development beyond campaign activity and donations. Make the most of it by reading, discussing and sharing Policy Grab and the Dialogue magazine published quarterly and responding with your own ideas.

*Have a great 2017.*

**Paula Collins, Editor.**

# A Question of Culture or Ideology

Dan Ryan

Perhaps the most important question over the next few decades will be the following: where does culture end and ideology begin?

Political leaders in the West are often keen to draw a clear distinction between something called “Islamism”, which they describe as a radical ideology, and “Islam” which simply a peaceful religious or cultural system.

Similarly, I often encounter people in my dealings with China who think that the reason why Beijing acts the way that it does can somehow be explained by understanding “Chinese culture”. Why precisely those Chinese in Hong Kong or Taiwan – who broadly share the same culture - have greater freedoms than in Beijing is not typically reflected on.

Sometimes the divide between “ideology” and “culture” is clear-cut, or at least appears so. For example, East Germans shared broadly the same culture as West Germans but were divided by a different ideology. The same is true for North and South Koreans today. However, even in those cases there were many who did not believe things were so unambiguous.

Some very famous writers, for example, the American Whittaker Chambers, Hilaire Belloc, and the British historian Michael Burleigh, believed that Marxism-Leninism was actually better understood as a type of Christian heresy. This was the reason, they argued, why it inspired such passion in its acolytes and why these secular movements had rituals, which oddly seemed to imitate religious liturgy and symbolism. It also explains why these “replacement religions” had such hatred for traditional belief systems.

Equally, it is not always as easy as one might think to label behaviour purely “cultural”.

What is an example of something that is purely cultural rather than ideological?

One thinks perhaps of human-sacrifice in Aztec culture? Or perhaps the traditional Hindu practice of “suttee” (wife burning), which the British sought to wipe out from the Subcontinent? Does cannibalism or child sacrifice in some ancient cultures qualify as purely “cultural”? What about female genital mutilation in the Middle East societies today?

If they are just “cultural” then one needs to recognize that in each of the examples cited there were and are many people who spoke the same language, and broadly shared many of the same rites, who did not agree with the practices we find barbaric.

Many of the victims put to death on the Great Pyramid of Tenochtitlan were, after all, Aztec. It is also undoubtedly true that many of the victims of Islamic terrorism today are Muslim.

During the Cold War we grew accustomed to talking about that struggle as being a “battle of ideas”. This description brings to mind Oxford Union debate where one side puts their case forcefully and the other put theirs. I would argue that this approach is still relevant in dealing with places like Beijing, despite their improvements since the days of Mao Zedong.

But with problems that are “cultural” it is more difficult. You won’t get someone to change his or her belief system by providing a clear 5-point rebuttal. Similarly, you won’t get someone to disown “the ashes of his fathers and the temples of his gods” by writing a cleverly worded newspaper column.

Culture change typically happens more slowly and with much more difficulty than ideological change. Do not expect a thunderclap moment like the fall of the Berlin Wall. Look rather for something quieter and more gradual: when churches and synagogues start being quietly re-built by brave locals, in some currently very hostile parts of the world, to the sounds of Hosannas and Hallelujahs.



Chair of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities, Social Cohesion and Australian Citizenship

Dan Ryan, the Chair of the Policy Committee for Ethnic Minorities, Social Cohesion and Australian Citizenship was recently appointed, by the office of Hon. Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister of Australia, a board member of The Australia-China Council (“ACC”).

The ACC is the peak independent advisory body to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on economic and strategic issues relating to the Australia-China relationship.

Dan Ryan formally takes up his position 1 January 2017. He recently attended the final board meeting of the existing board in Sydney on 12 December 2016 as an observer.

There are several very well-connected members of corporate Australia on the existing and new board. Hon. Warwick Smith is Chairman of the ACC Board. The term is for 3 years.

Dan Ryan speaks and reads Mandarin. Before returning to Australia worked as a lawyer in Greater China for over 10 years. He was recently a member of the Senate ticket at this year’s Federal Election.

The formal press release from the Foreign Minister can be found here: [http://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2016/jb\\_mr\\_161212.aspx?w=tb1CaGpkPX%2FISO K%2Bg9ZKEg%3D%3D](http://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2016/jb_mr_161212.aspx?w=tb1CaGpkPX%2FISO K%2Bg9ZKEg%3D%3D)

# Multiculturalism

George Christensen MHR Dawson



When migrants become Australian citizens they make an affirmation or pledge their allegiance to Australia, swearing that: “From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.”

They are also asked to sign a statement that they respect Australian values such as freedom, dignity of the individual, freedom of religion, the rule of law, democracy, equality of the sexes and egalitarianism.

So when the government considers removing citizenship for those who join foreign fighters – terrorist organisations who pledge and advocate death to Australians – it should be a moot point because it was voided by their own hand.

Sadly, the growth of political correctness in this country has led to a situation where we not only allow but encourage beliefs, customs and actions that should be regarded as un-Australian at best and treasonous at worst.

Multiculturalism once meant Australia was made up of citizens from all ethnicities around the world, who came together to form a single, rich, culture. Migrants brought unique cuisine, arts, festivals and wove their stories into the mainstream culture.

Today, multiculturalism means a country divided into many cultures where migrants bring their own laws, customs, and beliefs to create enclaves opposing, and even attacking, the mainstream culture.

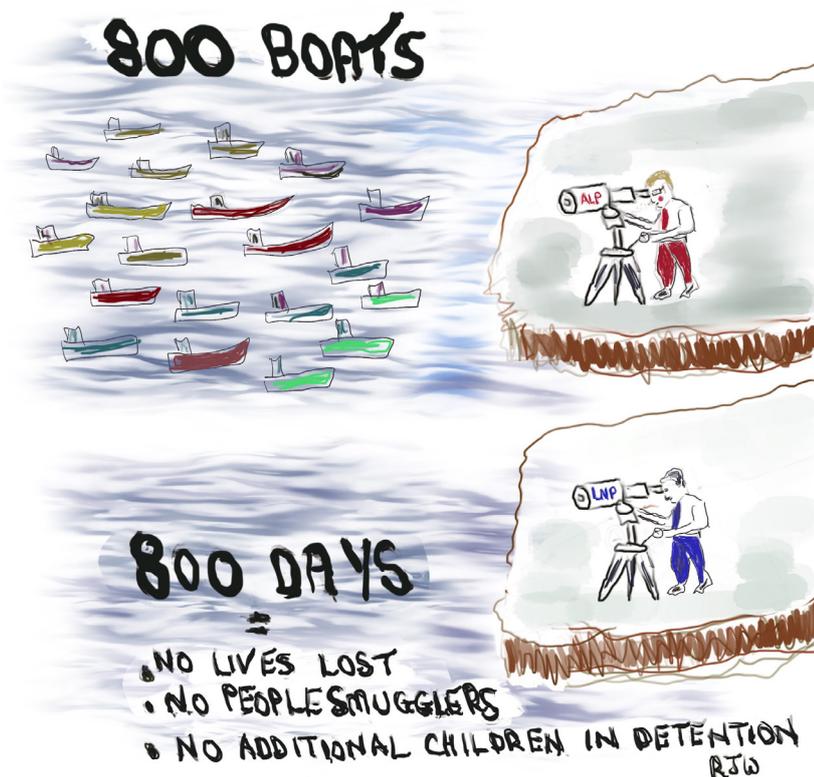
Multiculturalism has become cultural relativism with an ethnic face, where Australian culture must make way for foreign opposing cultures and if we do not acquiesce, we are racist, or we are bigots or we are some kind of “phobe”.

Today’s multiculturalism means the world view and beliefs that spawn practices like honour killings, child brides or sharia law must be accepted because they are seen as legitimate values within a particular culture.

Preventing isolation and disenfranchising of migrants begins with integration.

Quite simply, we should hold new Australians to their word and demand the allegiance they pledged to Australia at the citizenship ceremony.

*“Preventing isolation and disenfranchising of migrants begins with integration.”*



# ***Immigration and Security***

*Peter Dutton MHR Minister for Immigration*

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The development of Australia's immigration and border protection policies requires a clear-eyed and evidence-based approach. The growing scale and complexity of the system presents challenges both now and into the future.

The contrast between the Coalition's successes and Labor's failures on border policy couldn't be sharper. Labor's border protection disaster saw 50,000 people arrive on more than 800 boats, with at least 1200 people drowning at sea in the process. More than 8000 children entered detention under Labor, peaking at 2000 at one time in July of 2013. Labor opened 17 detention centres, and the budget blew out by \$11 billion.

Under the Coalition's Operation Sovereign Borders it has been almost 900 days since the last successful boat arrival and there have been no deaths at sea. The Coalition has closed 17 detention centres and removed all children from detention. The left should always be called out on the disastrous consequences of their discredited approach to border protection.

The Coalition has been both securing our borders and cleaning up our streets. As Minister, I have used my authority under the Migration Act to make our community safer. Nearly 1,500 people have had their visas cancelled through Migration Act character provisions since I came to this portfolio. This compares to just over 640 under all Labor Ministers combined from 2007 to 2013. Those cancelled include almost 150 for child sexual offences, over 150 for armed robbery, over 60 for rape and sexual offences, 43 for murder or manslaughter and over 280 for other violent offences. The visas of 115 Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Members involved in serious criminal activity in Australia have also been cancelled - seriously disrupting organised crime.

Management of Australia's Migration Programme presents many competing priorities compelling policy makers to strike a balance in Australia's national interest. The programme today has a strong economic focus. In recent years 68 per cent of people migrating to Australia were skilled migrants and 32 per cent were from family visa streams. The size and composition of Australia's Migration Programme is reviewed each year and decisions are made based on skills in demand and our national interest.

The Liberal-National Government has worked hard to formulate and implement forward-thinking policies which have restored integrity to our migration programme and kept our community safe. We must continue to do so.



***“The Coalition’s tougher migration policies have saved lives, billions of \$ and removed threats to our community.”***

This edition of *Policy Grab* has been prepared by the Policy Standing Committee for the LNP Queensland,  
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