



WHO ARE WE AND CAN WE AFFORD 25,000,000 MILLION AUSTRALIANS.

Abalinx 7 August 2018 Peter Adamis.

These two questions are on the mind of many in today's society. Especially at a time where families are struggling with a mortgage, high energy bills, food expenses and raising their children.

While at the same time we have those trying to live within their means on a meagre pension, on Centrelink payments, disability, or those eking out a living on the land. At the other end of the spectrum are the so called fat cats of this nation, the captains of industry, bankers, politicians, the superannuation investors and others in this category.

It makes you stop and think for a moment whether we as a nation can afford to keep growing at the same pace, whether there are sufficient jobs to go around, infrastructure to sustain such a population explosion and the opportunities to maintain a certain quality of life.

It sure is a far cry from the post WW2 period where migrants mainly from the European side came in droves seeking a better life. Yes in those days there were no hand-outs, no government support and certainly everyone was expected to fit in somehow and tolerate each other's differences and get on with making a living.

Mind you, much has changed since the early fifties and sixties and we as a nation have done well in accommodating new peoples over the years. I can remember ad a youngster, aged four being on the four month journey by ship coming to Australia with my parents and young brother.

As children we were hardly expected to understand our parent's anxieties, fears, struggles and challenges. To us it was just a huge adventure. An adventure I must add that I continue to have some 68 years later. Today we are left with our mother aged 88 and still going strong. Having lost our father in April last year. Both parents did the best they could in raising four children in an environment alien to their way of life.

Many of us who arrived on these shores from various parts of Europe managed somehow to overcome the multitude of barriers and overwhelming cultural differences to finally become a part of the Australian cultural landscape. As for us as a family of four, we arrived in Fremantle in July 1954 at time when there were approximately 8986,530 Australians living on this island continent we call home - Australia.

It is therefore of interest to note that since that time some 16,013,470 Australians have been added to Australia reaching 25,000,000. According to recent figures our population has grown exponentially to include people from all around the world. In the past Australia has relied on migrants from predominant European background.

There is evidence that demonstrates that in the previous 25 years, Australia has attracted more groups from the Asian/Indian continents, causing an enormous population growth with Melbourne and Sydney being the main recipient cities. Changes to immigration policies borrowed from Canada have been successfully embedded in most cases within the Australian fabric of society.

The Australian multicultural policy to me has always been a vehicle upon which it is used to integrate and merge with Australian values and institutions thus becoming Australian citizens. However there remain some communities who for reasons that are not fully known are failing to integrate and merge within Australia.

Policy makers have long since recognized this and although they are disappointed with the very few communities; they are seeking solutions to merge and integrate them. Economic, social mobility, English language standards, merging value differences and sport are but some of the solutions being considered.

Now that we have reached 25,000,000 people we must pat ourselves on the back at the tolerance towards New Australians making feel at home and contributing to the nation's economic longevity. Melbourne for example is expected to overtake Sydney as the most preferred city to attract new migrants. Many of these are predominantly from China and India, overtaking those from the European region.

Whether we like it or not, life will certainly become more interesting on a cultural level and social level that can only strengthen the fabric of Australian society. I guess in hindsight that the answer to my two questions. The first question I am of the belief that you are an Australian first with pride in your place of origin. The second question of whether Australia can afford to keep growing at its current pace? The answer must be, yes if we are able integrate and merge the old with the new without losing one's identity.



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