

Dear Sir/Madam,

Australia is a country to be very proud of, many different nationalities have worked together throughout our history to make Australia what it is today. The motivation for these efforts has always been to create a better life and a bright future for our children. The history and the sacrifices made by our forefathers should not be forgotten when we consider any future migrant intake.

Consideration should be given to the fact that while Australia is a great nation of freedom and rights for the individual, we still have a long way to go. When we think off offering assistance to refugees we should consider the welfare of Australia current citizen's first and whether we can afford to put the plight of the refugee's as a priority above our own troubles. In my opinion we cannot afford to help others until we have first cared for our own. The following are just a few examples of what should be given priority before considering the intake of refugees.

Suicide was unknown to Aboriginal people prior to invasion.

Appalling living conditions and past traumas have led to a suicide rate that by far exceeds that of non-Aboriginal people

Source: <http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/people/aboriginal-suicide-rates#ixzz3udFF5BRl>

The overall suicide rate in Australia is also a huge concern.

Suicide is a prominent public health concern. Over a five year period from 2009 to 2013, the average number of suicide deaths per year was 2,461.

See more at;

<http://www.mindframe-media.info/for-media/reporting-suicide/facts-and-stats>

Australian police and soldiers having served their country are not getting the support they deserve.

See more at;

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-03/verity-our-shameful-silence-on-police-suicide/5294142>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-11/rsl-clubs-to-raise-1-million-to-fight-veteran-homelessness/6303918>

Australian hospitals are understaffed and therefore the staff are overworked, leading to unsatisfactory care of patients.

See more at;

<http://www.sciencewa.net.au/topics/health-a-medicine/item/3431-understaffed-nursing-shift-impacts-patients/3431-understaffed-nursing-shift-impacts-patients>

One-third of Australians over the age of 60 are now living below the poverty line, a global report has found.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-09/third-of-australians-over-60-living-below-the-poverty-line/6761520>

There are currently 105,237 people in Australia who are homeless.

Source: <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/index.php/about-homelessness/homeless-statistics>

After reviewing the above matters and if it is still deemed acceptable to take in refugees then please consider the following.

Due to the recent escalation in Islamic terrorist attacks which have either been, directly executed by ISIS infiltration or have in the very least been called for and inspired by ISIS it is of utmost importance that you put the safety and welfare of the current citizens of Australia before any refugees. Consideration must also be given to the fact that apart from ISIS there are interpretations of Islam that call for violence or domination by stealth. This is a recognized fact by many peaceful Muslims, who wish to bring about the end of this sort of interpretation for example the recently launched Muslim Reform Movement. See more at; <http://muslimreformmovement.org/>

Immediate measures be taken to halt any further refugees being settled within Australia unless these refugees can prove without a shadow of a doubt that their beliefs are compatible with Australian culture, Australian laws and that they will make a concerted effort to find work to support themselves. It is of top priority that laws be put into place to ensure that any refugees who fall into this category continue to share the same values, always abiding by Australian laws and that no cultural or religious practices which break Australian laws, impinge on others freedoms or disrupt the peace will be tolerated. Perhaps the refugees could seek a family to sponsor them and assist them with upholding these conditions of refuge, this could be deemed a must, to be considered for settlement. To manage this, any citizens wishing to assist the refugees could be put on a contact list and encouraged to come forward to meet the refugees and assist with their assimilation.

Any refugees failing to comply with all the conditions of acceptance to settle in Australia should be immediately deported and their citizenship be revoked. Potential immigrants have to meet strict requirements to be allowed to immigrate, this should apply to refugees as well.

I am aware that Australia is being put under constant pressure by other nations to accept refugees. It is imperative that Australia does not submit to these pressures for fear of looking bad on the world stage. Australia has a duty of care, to consider the safety and welfare of its citizens above any others. The world should encourage countries that are nearby Syria and Iraq to take in refugees as in about ninety-nine percent of cases they share the same religion, these countries are better equipped to solve the refugee problem. If these countries refuse to accept any refugees then they should be required to financially aid refugee camps. These camps should temporarily provide a sanctuary for the refugees and in the meantime all countries who can afford to assist should be making every effort to encourage a safe return for the refugees to their homeland.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sonia Wieckowski
12th December, 2015