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Christina Ho is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney. She researches multiculturalism in Australia, with a particular emphasis on inter-cultural relations in diverse urban areas. Her current projects focus on gentrification and schooling in Sydney; education cultures among middle class Asian- and Anglo-Australians; and building cohesion within high density developments in culturally diverse areas. Her most recent book (co-edited with Andrew Jakubowicz) is *'For those who've come across the seas': Australian multicultural theory, policy and practice*.

### Social Cohesion and Segregation in Schools

Schools are an important site for fostering social cohesion, and have enormous potential to provide young people and their families with deep cross-cultural understanding, based on daily encounters with cultural difference. However, recent trends in Australia's education system may be undermining schools' capacity to enhance social cohesion. The federal government's enthusiastic support for private schools has deepened divisions between schools, while the policy of school choice has created a marketplace in education that has also exacerbated inequalities between more and less desirable schools. While these divisions are often framed in terms of socio-economic class, they can also be seen in terms of ethnicity, as families self-segregate in their schooling choices. This paper, focusing on Sydney, reports on how the 'marketisation' of schools has created three types of ethnic enclave school communities: elite Anglo-dominated schools, elite Asian-dominated schools, and at the other end of the spectrum, disadvantaged migrant-dominated schools. In all cases, these school communities are failing to reflect Australia's multicultural society, and failing to achieve the potential of schools to foster genuine social cohesion.

