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Born in England and educated at the London School of Economics. Came to Australia in 1956 and was a lecturer in political science at Melbourne University, followed by periods in England and Canada before finally settling at the ANU in Canberra. Active in multicultural affairs in the 1960s to 1980s as director of the Centre for Multicultural Studies at the ANU. Awarded an Order of Australia for this work. Editor of encyclopedias of the Australian people and of religions in Australia.

Consulting with the Second and Third Generations of Immigrants

The attempts of governments to advance community cohesion by a series of consultations, ethnic minority organisations, etc. in other words the machinery of multiculturalism which was developed from the 1960s but has been allowed to become rather rusty in recent years.

One of the essentials of this approach to cultural variety and diversity was to gain credibility with the relevant 'communities'. However this assumes that coherent and well organised 'communities' exist'. It overlooks considerable differences within broad categories, between generations, internal politics etc. Some "leaders" are chosen who have little credibility with the locally-born populations, or for party political reasons.

A basic problem is lack of understanding of this variety and especially the failure to distinguish between "immigrants" and second and third generations. As much of the multicultural work of the former Immigration Department is now passed on to a composite "border protection" agency, this type of problem is likely to become more difficult. The basic assumption that those born in Australia of immigrant or indigenous parents will be easily integrated, is obviously fraught with some difficulties, one being lack of trust towards official agencies and public hostility. Lecturing minorities about being "real Australians" does not necessarily help.