

How do you find our country ? Immigrant Settlement, Social cohesion and Social inclusion in regional areas

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What am I doing ?

Review of Media Articles

Griffith example

- <http://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/3497693/sikhs-terrorised-in-wake-of-kill-spree/>
- <http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/punjabi/en/article/2016/05/26/australias-sikh-community-will-meet-griffith-11-12th-june-2016-annual-sikh-games>
- <https://www.sikh24.com/2015/02/28/australian-sikhs-face-increasing-abuse-and-hate-crimes/#.WAbDr4N96Uk>

Why is it important ?

In recent times there has been a government mandate to settle immigrants in regional areas to enhance labour supply in the regions. These are strategic decisions based on an identified policy need.

Burmese, Arabs, Afghans, Indians, and Syrians (recent arrivals) have been settled in regional areas. These communities work in the Vineyards, they work in the Abattoirs.

However, not always the host communities are consulted, neither the immigrants welcomed.

What does this mean from the point of view of enhancing community connectedness. As a social work researcher I am interested in levels of well-being that stem out of productivity and connectedness.

Research Gaps

- Scanlon Foundation reports
- FECCA
- SCOA
- Comment :“A broad indicator is self-described financial status during the first five years in Australia. At the top of the scale were those who indicated that they were ‘prosperous’ or ‘living very comfortably’: this proportion was 24% of those who entered on a Business (457) visa; in the midrange, 12% of those on a Family visa; and at the low end, 7% of those on an Independent Skill visa” (Markus, 2015). Sikhs belong to this group of people in Australia. They are financially prosperous

Further comments

- The economic argument that ‘discrimination does not pay’ Martina Boese cites (Bertone and Esposito 2000) has failed to eliminate discrimination and racism in Australian communities.
- The SEGRA platform can enable having these dialogues and conversations about building resilient communities and enhancing social cohesion in regional areas.

Who will this research benefit?

- This research will inform community development workers, council development officers and policy makers.
- I hope to work with host community members and the newly settled to engage with one another with a view to greater harmony and social cohesion.
- The research will add to the body of knowledge on regional areas in Australia.

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