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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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TALKING POINT Multicultural policy has reduced misunderstanding

THE federal Government is correct to revitalise Australian multicultural policies which when implemented correctly will reduce misunderstanding in society. It promotes Australian values which are basically universal, modern, civilised values applicable to all citizens regardless of their background. It promotes better integration of various new migrant groups into modern Australian society.

Colin Rubenstein ("Integration the key to multicultural success", Commentary, 18/2) has correctly interpreted the meaning of our Australian multicultural policies. However, to avoid confusion we should replace the term "multiculturalism" with "multicultural policies". It is the correct multicultural policies promoted by the previous governments that have helped new migrants and other citizens to live harmoniously in modern Australian society.
Ka Sing Chua, Mitcham, Vic

talk about multiculturalism ("Multiculturalism has a long way to go", 18/2). We have lived with multiculturalism for nearly 70 years but this issue is about Islam and its impact on us. Europe has not handled Muslim immigration well and now realises it has serious social issues, not to mention home-grown terrorism.

The social tensions in the suburbs are no different to what they were in the 1950s, but then it was the Italians, Greeks and Lebanese who were accused of strange customs. Suburban Australians have been dishing it out for decades so any newcomers shouldn't get too precious about it.

Keith Mouatt, Richlands Qld

IT is one thing to have a multiculturalism policy but quite another to deal with the serious problems to which it can give rise. The reality, to which many commentators are turning a blind eye, is that the Islamic culture is often expressed in ways totally antipathetic to ours and shows no

This is most obviously reflected in the attempts to commit terrorist acts, which if not discovered would have involved extensive killings (as some have overseas). Australian governments now have expensive counter-terrorism policies but they and other leaders (including business and church) also need to publicly denigrate the extremist, revolutionary interpretations of Islam.

Des Moore, South Yarra, Vic

SCOTT Morrison rejects the term "multiculturalism" and fears it may be used as "a licence to replicate your old culture in a new land". However, Australia as we now know it is a construct of many different cultures. Does Morrison object to the fact that the first British settlers replicated their old culture in a new land?

Mark Pearce, Richmond, NSW

THE cumbersome and often misused word "multiculturalism" disguises the fact we have multiple cultures here al-

centuries. What we are missing is understanding and tolerance of others' customs and beliefs.

Grant Gascoigne, Mitchelton, Qld

I HAVE worked with young people from a huge range of cultural backgrounds for over 20 years and I'm continually astonished by their resilience, positivity and adaptability. I see young Muslim women playing soccer in Dandenong, young refugees using comedy to break through cultural barriers in Melton and young Sudanese boys building their community in Sunshine. These examples and more prove to me that multiculturalism is alive and well in Australia.

We need to give our young people the opportunity to show us how to build new identities, strong, supple identities with multiple-cultural influences. That's why the Government's newly announced multicultural strategy is so important.

Carmel Guerra
CEO, Centre for Multicultural Youth