

15 January 2019

The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP - Prime Minister

The Hon. Bill Shorten, MP – Leader of the Opposition

Hayden Bradford

To the Hon. Mr Morrison and the Hon. Mr Shorten

Re: 26 January – Australia Day or Invasion Day?

This nonsense about changing the date of Australia Day or abandoning Australia Day is exactly that – nonsense. The people who are proclaiming this utter rot are predominately people who simply wish to moan, whine, and complain about anything and everything. They do not care about our Indigenous people's rights, safety, health, education etc. They are just perpetual complainers.

These moaners would be better off assisting our Indigenous people by taking action about relevant issues affecting our Indigenous people such as Indigenous youth suicide, alcoholism in Indigenous communities, child abuse, domestic violence, poor living standards, high unemployment; poor health and hygiene standards etc. The aforementioned topics shorten people's lives and people unhealthy.

Given that our Indigenous people and their heritage is important to all Australians, as it should be, may I offer up an idea?

I think it would be better for our school curriculums to include *one week* of Australian Indigenous studies. During this week Indigenous people would be invited to talk to children about Indigenous history. A well run program would be able to have our Indigenous people teaching our children about bush tucker in the area, the significance of sacred sites to Indigenous people, the daily lives of Indigenous people prior to white settlement, what the corroboree signifies and why it is done, what occurred to our Indigenous people after white settlement (warts and all), to mention a few areas. Also, teachers, our Indigenous people, and the children could do field trips in the local areas to show the children historic Indigenous sites and explain their meaning.

If a program such as this was introduced into our schools, we could remove one of Australia's other useless public holidays such as the Queens Birthday, or Labor Day and replace it with a public holiday beginning the Indigenous week. On this public holiday, our Indigenous people could hold ceremonies and educational talks in our parks for all people to attend and learn about Australia's Indigenous history from our Indigenous people.

For far too long a succession of Australian governments, both Liberal and Labor, State and Commonwealth, have been more active in ensuring that refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are looked after - at the expense of our own people.

Let us bear in mind that a large number of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers come to our country because we are a soft touch. Some of them don't even fit in with our culture, and in fact, undermine our culture while harming us.

Let us look after our own people first instead of alienating them. In this case, our Indigenous people. They are our history and our heritage and Australia's history and heritage.

What say you?

Yours faithfully
Hayden Bradford