

AIMA Axed

Dunne, Clare “AIMA Axed” Ethnic Spotlight
(Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils
of Australia) No 10, 1986, p 4.

Clare Dunne, Council member, Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs

Special issue of Ethnic Spotlight
“The Betrayal of Multiculturalism”
August 1986

The decision to close AIMA is the first of a series of blows aimed at multiculturalism which began to emerge this week.

AIMA is the only statutory body in the country in which the philosophy and aims of multiculturalism are spelled out in its charter. It is the only organisation in the country with the expertise and resources to do in depth research, which presents independent advice to the Government, helps to educate the general community to the realities of Australian life and points to new ways of equitable living for the whole country.

We are an organisation which has, in the last year, started to plug the gaps of the past, and begun leading in the right direction. We were on the brink of new creative work which would benefit the whole of Australia. Now we are being cut off without being able to complete our task.

We have no indication what resources will be available to the new Office proposed to take its place, nor what its size will be nor what freedom of action it will have.

One thing is sure. Those of us who are committed to the values and philosophy of multiculturalism for all Australians will be continuing to work for it despite the setbacks.