



Good day to you. Each week I speak with many listeners who contact me and share views and stories and this marvelous listener interaction is a major driver for We The People. Recently amid the ongoing controversy about integration and assimilation into Australia, I spoke with Josephine Sammut and her daughter Odette. Josephine's parents Maria and Carmelo or Mary and Charlie Muscat, migrated to Australia from Malta in 1957 and this family's enduring story is the subject of my narrative today. It's a real life example of successful immigration and assimilation when the world had a far better idea of what mattered and the true value of one homogenous monoculture. When new Australians' came here then, they adopted Australian ways and worked hard to build a new life and to integrate into this country 'down under'. This has been the basis of Australia's success and not internal multiculturalism as is so often proposed.

Now Josephine Sammut is a Gold Coast local around 80 years young and a woman full of life with a steely resolve and I suspect a formidable matriarch. Her lingering accent and unconditional national pride suggests she has earned that title and that same matriarchal character lives on within Odette too, no doubt underpinning the family's spirit. Josephine's mother Maria at 98 is proud that she and her husband came to Australia to give their children the best start possible in life and docked here on one of four ships a year that set sail from Malta nearly sixty years ago. They called this the "land of opportunity" and that all you had to do was to take up that opportunity. How different this is to the current debilitating nanny state approach where so many think they have a right to be supported here on the public purse. In fact Josephine told me with great pride that no one in the family had ever asked the government for help and had never been on the dole. Josephine's husband Gerald worked as a carpenter and raised and supported his family just as pioneers do. Gerald was determined to be all things Australian while not forgetting his Maltese heritage. He told his family that you don't come here and ask for the rules of AFL to be changed so we must barrack for the Australian team and if necessary his kids would fight for Australia. Here was a man with a clear purpose and a will to integrate and succeed and indeed the family has achieved just that and more.

Odette for example started her own business called *Demonstration Plus* which allocated staff to present samples of products to the market place across Australia. She is rightfully proud of the thousands of employees she hired and in the way they were treated. I suspect Odette was and is quietly generous and enjoys the fruits of her labour today with grand children of her own. Josephine told me a wonderful story of when they first arrived and attended a church function where the minister invited everyone to 'bring a plate' the following week. They decided to show their appreciation by bringing two plates but had not realised that "bring a plate" meant with food. Theirs were empty. While a little embarrassed once they realised, Josephine recalls all the parishioners gathered around and befriended them and made them welcome and as she tells the story you can't help but wonder about the many things a new Australian must learn. Bring a plate will never sound the same to me again.

On reflection don't think life has always been easy for this family because it hasn't but they show us how important family is and how vital integration is for the long term health of Australia. This Maltese family and their descendants now number in excess of 50 fine Australians who share the same burdens and challenges as we all do. They are staunchly Australian and go the extra mile when they can. This is just one example of a 'can do' family who took up the challenge and became true Australians and have contributed to our country. There are many more who do the same but unfortunately and to our great loss many new arrivals no longer think this way and this is to our national detriment. In not integrating, those folk divide this nation and as the good book tells us "*a house divided cannot stand*".