

CAMD Case Study – CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BELONGING:

'Identity: yours, mine, ours'

Immigration Museum, Melbourne



This exhibition is about identity – who we are, who others think we are, and what it means to belong and not belong in Australia.

The exhibition focuses on how our cultural heritage, languages, beliefs, and family connections influence our self-perceptions and our perceptions of other people – perceptions that can lead to discovery, confusion, prejudice and understanding.

Engaging personal stories, intriguing objects, compelling images, immersive videos and interactive multimedia experiences invite visitors to find connections with others, as well as challenge the assumptions we make about each other every day. Visitors are encouraged to share their own stories, affirm their own identities and celebrate diversity in our community.

As part of the exhibition, the museum distributed postcards across Melbourne inviting people to complete the sentence '**I belong when...**'. One reply was 'I belong when I sit in café alongside boardshorts, a beret, bifocals, a burqua & Blundstones in simple harmony! We belong here!'

Extensive web-based materials continue the exhibition's 'cultural conversations' online. They look in particular at how different cultural groups express their creativity through forms as diverse as humour, photography, calligraphy, embroidery, song, music, cooking, dressmaking, glass sculpting, puppet-making and weaving.

One online respondent commented 'I didn't expect it to move me as it did, it was both a powerful and insightful experience on a number of levels. Few exhibitions are able to dig deep and ask questions that we all need to ask ourselves as citizens of this land'.

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/discoverycentre/identity/about-the-exhibition/>