**A Modern Modest Proposal**

By M Devon

On Preventing the Embarrassment and Inconvenience that Proper English-Speaking Australians Must  
Currently Deal With: It has come to my attention that when it comes to being proficient in a foreign  
language, Australians are immensely behind people in other parts of the world.

Of course, we know that this is because those that created the education system in our fair country know that there are more important facts to learn than how to say, "Hello," in Spanish, or "The bathroom is down the hall and to the left," in German.

While students in Europe or Asia have wasted time learning how to speak two, three, even four languages besides the one they already speak, our nation's children have learned real subjects, such as the skills needed to pass any standardised test. Clearly, our students would succeed far better in life from what they have learned.

However, one can say that most students around the globe are learning the best, and what should be the only acceptable language on this earth- English. Unfortunately, not all members of foreign societies are proficient in our nation's most widely spoken language. They may use excuses for this such as the fact that their country has another official language, or that the Bolsheviks made them learn Russian when their country was part of the Soviet Union. These excuses, however, are fallible, and one should not believe them.

The fact of the matter is these foreign people do not learn English as means of  
insulting us English-speakers, particularly us Australians. They take joy in having us visiting their  
countries, watching us make valiant attempts when trying to speak their lingo, often not helping us  
communicate what we need even if they know a bit of English, and then have the nerve to call us  
"stupid Australians."

Sadly, this is not even the worst scenario an innocent, English-speaking Australians could encounter. It is not bad enough that we must encounter foreign languages in other countries, but with the influx of immigrants, we must deal with them in our homeland.

Now, when we walk through Leichhardt, we must deal with the confusing sounds of Italian bleeding into  
our ears. When we walk through various cities' Chinatowns, we must hear the grating voices of  
people speaking Chinese. The worst part about this is that even when one of these "foreign  
language speakers" can tell that you do not understand their language, they may hesitate to begin  
using English until after they have finished their prior conversations.

This lack of respect is utterly appalling. These people do not want to assimilate and live in harmony with native Aboriginals. They do not mind making you feel awkward because you do not understand a word they are saying. By not speaking solely in English, these immigrants show that they are ungrateful; they do not care that they live in the greatest nation (which happens to speak English) in the world.

Because of these grave insults, I have come up with a proposal to spread the use of English and only English first across our nation, and then across the world. We must start by making English the official  
language of Australia. There should also be a federal law that no language other  
than English can be spoken or written by Australians citizens.

If anyone should let a "ciao" or "bonjour" spill out of his mouth, he will be severely punished. I believe an appropriate punishment for breaking the law would be cutting the offender's tongue out of his mouth; this will certainly provide motivation for others to follow it. We must not stop at making Australia an entirely English-speaking country. Our country is one with great ambition, and we can  
therefore spread the use of our beautiful language around the globe.

Since foreign language teachers will obviously be unemployed in Australia once the foreign language ban is enacted, they will instead be sent all over the world to teach English. These people will be regarded as heroes for taking the risk of encountering the inconvenient use of foreign languages on a daily basis until their pupils are entirely fluent in English.

While it make take some years for the entire world to be proficient in English, this Australian Dream will come true. As many patriotic Australian citizens have said, "Welcome to Australia mate. Now, speak English!" If we follow this proposal, the saying will become, "Welcome to the world mate. Now, speak English!"