Fertile Question: How can religious diversity advance Australia fair?

Core Content Area 1: Australia’s Diversity

Deepening Understanding: The Media and diversity

Teachers: Before You Start!

- Determine the students’ progress with their Media Logs.

For Students to explore the way the Australian media represents Australia’s diversity select from the following activities:

Students:

- review Media Log.
  - How commonly did articles on diversity appear?
  - Were articles related to certain groups written more favourably than others? Which ones?
  - What can you conclude about the media and the way in which it reports cultural diversity?
- read the story that appeared in the Courier Mail on December 21, 2010. Read the following comments and answer the questions that follow.

**Gordon of Brisbane** Posted at 2:07 am December 21, 2010

_You know, this is the first intelligent article I’ve seen in the Courier Mail for a long time. You did fail to mention though, that the negativity spewed out about ‘boat people’ (not real people in need) is seeded by the Australian government and propagated by our press (particularly as most of it is owned by Murdoch)! It's no wonder people 'parrot' phrases like queue-jumping, when it has been pumped into our daily language in this way. Queuing is not even an Australian trait, but a British one!_

**Poor Article of Brisbane** Posted at 11:02 am December 20, 2010

_And if we don’t want Australia to be “enriched” anymore by overseas hoards? What then Mr Syvret? I'd gladly swap you and your Joseph and Mary analogy for an overseas non-queue jumper any day._

- Do the responses agree or disagree with the point of view of the author of the article?
- What is Gordon implying about the press?
- Is Paul Syvret’s article based on fact or opinion? Give an example from the story to justify your answer.
- How much do you think people’s opinions are influenced by the media? What else affects people’s opinions?