

To: Koalanet

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN SLANG

BPARD has received complaints about this site, in particular the way English people are singled out for what can only be described as racism. We are referring to the way you use the recognised racial slur POM. It is unequivocally recognised as a racial slur in the media release by the Race Commissioner Mr TOM CALMA dated November 2006. He also states HREOC does not advocate the use of Racial Slurs in any context, this being a direct reference to the term POM. Why do you flout this guideline of HREOC's, do you or do you not believe in human rights? e.g. the rights of all racial groups to be treated equally before the law, refer Section 10 of the Federal RDA: the right to equality before the law.

We note you do not refer to other Racial groups by use of a recognised Racial slur, and when you have used Sheepshagger as a nickname for New Zealander's you mark this as a racist term. As POM is deemed a racial slur by HREOC this also should be listed as a racist term, WHY ISN'T IT??

Regarding who has the right to decide what is offensive/ Acceptable terminology. This decision has already been made and is defined in the abiding EOC ruling EOC (2001) 93-146. This states quite clearly; in matters such as this, it is the opinion of the racial group referred to that is relevant, the opinion of other Racial groups or individuals of other racial groups is irrelevant.

ALL UK edition English reference books printed by the Oxford University Press list the term POM as a DEROGATORY TERM and have done so since 1989. A significant number of English people find the use of the term to be racially offensive on its own, yet you use it in conjunction with the pejorative BASTARD, this being a direct contravention of HREOC's policy, and is seen as a breach of human rights (refer Race Commissioner's media release Nov 2006.)

By not providing the full definition you are actively giving legitimacy to a racist practice. BPARD request that you amend the entry in relation to POM and include all of the above facts e.g. Derogatory/offensive in the country of origin of this migrant group. Many English migrants are in favour of banning its use. It is deemed as a racial slur by the Human rights Commission and the Ethnic Communities Council. It is also recognised as offensive by the England Cricket Board

This is a formal complaint in relation to a racist practice. BPARD is providing all evidence in support of the above statements. There are only two outcomes we will accept, these being:-

- a.. The full definition be applied to the Racial Slur POM, much in the manner of recognising Sheepshagger as being racial for a New Zealander.
- b.. The term POM be withdrawn altogether. This will bring the English Racial Group in line with Indigenous Australians, Pakistanis, Indians, Africans, Muslim groups, etc etc. This will also ensure Koalanet is abiding by the UN Convention that Australia is obligated to re: RACIAL EQUALITY.

There are no other Ethnic Groups referred to by use of a Racial Slur e.g. WOG, WOP, DING, DAGO, ABO, KRAUT. Why is this, why pick on one race only, are you racists??

We shall expect an answer within Two weeks of the date of the message we included in the comments section of your web site. Failure to respond, or to abide by the Human rights referred to in the Federal RDA and UN convention, will result in this complaint being forwarded to the appropriate Authority for Adjudication.

Yours Sincerely, Mr D Thomason, Spokesperson BPARD Australia.