

For a more detailed discussion of cultural differences between Australian culture and the culture of international students studying in Australia, refer to Hodge (1986), Clayton (1984) and Kenyon and Amrapala (1990).

## *Attitudes*

**Time** Consciousness of time and associated behaviour is culturally determined. Hall & Hall (1987 p16) identified two main types, Monochronic and Polychronic. See Definition section pages 19-22. Australia operates on Monochronic system and many South East Asian and Pacific countries are Polychronic. This will affect attitudes to punctuality, deadlines and lateness.

**Women** Traditionally, English and Western European societies have perpetuated male gender preference and predominance and although this is changing in the West, it still remains in many Asian and Pacific countries.

**Family** The extended and cross generational family unit, as opposed to the nuclear family unit in Australia, is still dominant in many Asian and Pacific cultures. Family ties are strong, the family is an individual's main support and members are interdependent and responsible for each other's welfare. International students studying in Australia may find independence difficult and tend to be overly reliant on members of their own group or on the teacher.

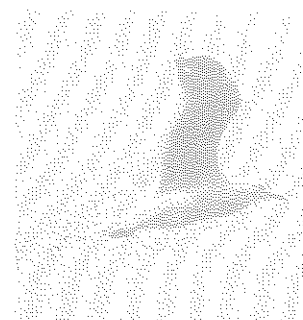
Students from an extended family culture do not shed the complex and binding set of obligations to family members while abroad. Many send money home and funeral, succession, marriage and other rites and rules still enfold them commandingly.

**Group** Australians prefer to be treated as independent individuals rather than as members of a certain class or position or group, although their families are important to them. This is in contrast to many Asian and Pacific Island countries. The people primarily see themselves as members of a group, or a community or a sect or clan and the individual's needs and will are secondary to that of the group.

**Animals** Attitudes to animals often vary between cultures. Many cultures do not afford them a special position as Australians do and they will not have animals as pets. It is taboo for Muslims to touch dogs.

## *Expression of Emotion, Disharmony and Loudness*

Australians tend to be direct in their communication and will readily display emotions such as anger, frustration and happiness. Some Asian and Pacific peoples may interpret any open display of emotion as a lack of self discipline and poor taste. Disagreement will not be openly expressed and smoothness in relationships between individuals and within the group is a high priority. Any open disharmony, especially shouting, would result in loss of face for all parties. Australians may stereotype Asian and Pacific Islanders as passive and compliant, just as they may stereotype us as brash and indiscreet or rude.



• T A F E •  
*International*