AUSTRALIA'S proud military reputation is under assault from social engineering warriors who see intent on reducing our defence force to a laughing stock.

This in no way detracts from the many individuals who have served in modern times and who see the Australian uniform as a symbol of virtuous violence that strikes fear into enemies, but the problem is at administrative and political levels.

Only this month, former Diggers were in uproar when they found Federal Government-hired "standards police" removed the word "mateship" from plaques along the Kokoda Track in PNG and replaced it with the more inclusive "friendship".

These language arbiters are infiltrating every aspect of society from schools, to politics and universities.

The Defence Force, particularly the Army, shouldn't be a place where niceness trumps all.

Just this year, the Army was found to be employing gender diversity experts, and Islamic scholars to train officers in an attempt to stamp out "white Anglo-Saxon male" culture.

How exactly is that going to help them win a war?

And never mind the fact this "culture" was responsible for some of the most inspirational and history-making military achievements recorded.

Instead of preparing our soldiers for bloody combat, we're demanding they become social justice warriors.

For instance compare the following passages relating to warfare through the ages and now:

■ "The object of war is not to die for your country, but to make the other bastard die for his" – US Gen. George Patton.

■ "A coward's mother does not weep" – Ancient Roman proverb.

■ "The Spartans do not ask how many enemies but where they are" – Agis II, King of ancient Sparta.

■ "If the Section cannot remain here alive it will remain here dead, but in any case it will remain here" – orders given to Australian machine gunners in World War I.

As we move into today's military ethos, these are some more quotes:

■ "A Defence culture that is fair and inclusive that strongly values the contributions of its diverse workforce. Defence personnel who are well supported throughout sexual orientation and gender identity development." – charter of Defence Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Information Service.

■ "Under the new changes, ration packs should also contain kosher and vegetarian meals to help combat 'menu fatigue'" – story in the Daily Telegraph.

■ "The rules we live by have largely been written by white Anglo-Saxon men, and the beneficiaries are white Anglo-Saxon men" – Lt-Gen David Morrison, chief of Army.

It is now clear that today's defence force is now more interested in political causes than it is in populating the ramparts with uncompromising killers – which is essentially what a defence force should be.

While Diggers of old were happy just to get a rock-hard biscuit and some rancid beef, today's soldiers are being protected from "menu fatigue".

Those lamenting loudest are former Diggers who see today's Army as a shadow of its former self.

Where training standards are relaxed to suit individuals, and where no one is allowed to be offended.

Vietnam veteran, John Coe, wrote in his book The Smiling Autarch: "The citizens expect their military to meet and, moreover, exceed the exigencies of war. They do not pay taxes to provide creches for social engineers, and practitioners of political correctness."

Another former soldier told me: "Unity, not diversity, is the key to achieve. Soldiers of old were welded together, not by political brainwashing but because they had met the tough demands of soldiering together – 'all for one and one for all' regardless of religion, race or colour."

More than a few people hold grave fears for Australia should it be invaded – not because they doubt the courage and skill of the Australian soldier, but because of a government and command that seems intent on reducing the Army's battle-readiness, its fearsome reputation, its training standards and its appetite for war.

The reality of war is that if the worst did happen, society needs killers hardened by extreme training and who are used to hardship.

Does today's Defence Force fit that description?