Hello,

I am writing to request that you considder the problem of *educational* descrimination as you develop your new anti-descrimination laws, and also considder adding laws that aim to reduce this terrible problem. As I understand it, your aims with these law changes is simply to round up all the laws against the various forms of descrimination that are currantly illegal (e.g. sexual, religious, racial, ect.) and replace them with a single set of laws that work exactly the same way as the old ones. I understand that your aim is for these changes to simplify the legal system, **not** to noticably change the effect these laws actually have on the Australian community. All the same, I feel that educational descrimination is too big a problem for it to not be bought up when the topic of descrimination in Australia is being examined in parliament.

Like every other form of descrimination, educational descrimination has many unpleasant effects. It prevents people from achieving their dreams and it deprives their communities of all the enjoyable and exciting contributions those people could make, if they were given the same opportunities as others. It pressures people in to making many unfair, unnessisary and often unreversable sacrifices, just in order to "succeed". And it also puts needless extra pressure upon the Australian education system which in turn makes things harder for the students who are genuinely interested in their subjects.

The laws that make it illegal for people to get certain jobs unless they have certain education/degrees/qualifications/training are an unfair and needless obstacle for the people who dream of having those jobs. While some people might genuinely be interested in the education these laws demand, others might not. So for these people, these courses are not only an unwanted delay in getting their dream job, they also make getting that job less likely, as there is no guarantee that they will pass the courses. And for people who, for one reason or another, are unable or unwilling to undergo this education, these laws make it **impossible** for them to get the job they want.

The sacrifices that these laws require some people to make are also unfair. By demanding that a person undergo certain education before they are aloud to get the job they want, the laws are basically forcing these people to give the impression (implied by the courses they apply for) that they are interested in what the education/training system tells them and that they are pursuing a smart lifestyle rather then a dumb one. For someone who isn't interested in either education or being smart, these laws force them to **pretend** to like these things, in order to get the job they want. I strongly believe that this is no less wrong then people being pressured to pretend to have differant sexual preferences, or differant religious beliefs in order to "succeed". Yet thankfully, people are protected by law against having to make these other identity sacrifices in this day and age, whereas the expectation for someone who is incompetant at heart to deny who he/she is is not only still legal, but is actually enforced by law!

Also, by agreeing to undergo unwanted education, people are also sacrificing the unskilled workstyle that they may have preferred having, and the many fine accomplishments they might have had under such a life. Absorbing too much education (e.g. the amount needed to get a degree/qualification) usually severely

hampers someone's ability to get into the memorable and amusing situations that unskilled workers can. This is obviously a great cost to their quality of life. While there is no way of accurately determining the amount of interesting, hilarious stories that will never get to be told due to educational descrimination, I don't think it's exadurating to assume the figure is well into the **millions** of stories per year, in Australia alone. Worse still, unwanted education is very difficult to remove from a person's brain. So even if educational descrimination completely disappeared tomorrow, the people who have already passed unwanted education courses would still have trouble producing genuine unskilled exploits in the jobs they've been trained for.

And in addition to the harsh personal identity and lifestyle sacrifices that educational descrimination pressures people to make, the education courses themselves often require a lot of sacrifice, which is a waste if the student has no real interest in them. Such courses are often quite expensive and take several years of a person's life that they can never get back. They can also cost their students a great deal of stress, sometimes to the point of becoming a mental illness.

By pressuring people into taking educational courses that they aren't even interested in, educational descrimination also increases the student load on the education system. This, in turn makes it harder for students who are genuinely interested in learning, as many of these courses have limited vacancies. Pressuring uninterested people into these courses means there are less places available for the interested people.

Educational descrimination doesn't only effect the descriminated people, but also their wider communities. The shortage of unskilled workers results in a terrible shortage of the amusing incidents and situations that unskilled workers can offer. This makes both business and social dealings less rewarding across our communities and severely impacts general quality of life. It also contributes to other social problems such as bullying and depression, as people who aren't interesting enough to draw an audience with their own exploits can sometimes resort to using underhanded methods such as harassment, blackmail and slander to get people to watch them. Others can simply become depressed over the lack of interesting moments they've been able to provide to their community. And it is well recognized that the problems of depression extend beyond the person who has it.

Finally, educational descrimination is also a major problem for employers. Companies with job vacancies often have difficulty filling them, because the workplace laws dictate that they can only hire someone who is *qualified*/*trained*/*skilled* in that job. Which means that instead of being able to hire someone who wants the job right away, the company has to wait until somebody passes an education program that can sometimes take **years** to complete. This has become such a big problem that some companies even import foreign workers to fill those jobs, which is a concerning situation, considdering that there are plenty of unemployed Australians who would like those jobs.

The main source of educational descrimination is the workplace laws that make it illegal for people to do certain jobs unless they have certain education/degrees/qualifications/training. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you enact new laws that invalidate any currant or future laws that might descriminate against

uneducated/unqualified/incompetant people in this way, while you are overhauling the country's anti-descrimination laws.

However, I don't believe that educational discrimination should be completely outlawed. In a free, democratic country, I believe that like-minded people should be free to come together and create a workplace that satisfies the lifestyle they feel drawn to. This means that if some people would be most happy working in a smart, educated workplace, they should be legally free to create such a workplace together. If others wish to work in an exciting, completely incompetant workplace where there's never a dull moment, they also should be free to do so. Hopefully, most workers will be able to enjoy the differant benefits of sharing their lives with coworkers of both sets of workstyles.

To summarize: I request that you invalidate all currant laws that make it illegal for a person to do a certain job unless they have certain education/training/qualifications/degrees, and take steps to insure that no future laws can be made that rob unqualified people of a fair chance to achieve their dreams.

Once again, I do understand that your intention was to make these law changes, without actually effecting the way they work, just as I hope you will understand how I could not let this issue pass by without the problems of educational descrimination being heard and recognized.

Thank you for reading. I hope you will seriously considder this email, along with any others you receive regarding this issue, before you finalize your changes to the anti-descrimination laws.

Kind Regards,

Chris Hamill
Australian Citizen & Voter