

11th August 2008

SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO ACADEMIC FREEDOM

To: Mr John Carter
Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter & Committee members,

I was a part-time mature age student at the University of New South Wales between 1990 and 2002. During this time I completed B.A. (Hons) in history (1995) and M.A. (Hons) in history (2002).

I am very pleased that there will be a Senate Inquiry into the fair education at secondary and tertiary institutions.

In my opinion education is not always fair if you happen to be a Liberal. At university I often felt, as a Liberal, that I was entering the Kensington branch of the A.L.P. whenever I approached the School of History at the University of New South Wales.

During my years there I often heard very biased comments from both lecturers and students, the most vicious being directed at John Howard and Peter Costello. I do not want to name individual lecturers who I feel were very wrong to display their political leanings when they as teachers were influential with the many young people in their charge.

These students understood only too well that if they showed signs in their assignments of being Conservative in their political beliefs they would most likely be marked down.

One academic in the School of History often had the door of her office covered with anti-Liberal and anti-Howard cartoons. This lecturer taught First Year Australian history amongst her other duties and her students were mostly young, recent school leavers who I'm sure, felt too intimidated to express political views other than those expressed by her.

In my experience History was the most 'political' of all the schools in the Arts Faculty at U.N.S.W. "Political correctness" was very much in evidence in the School of Politics and International Relations. (The schools in the Arts Faculty have recently been re-organised). My university experience, undertaken late in life, was spoilt for me by the embittered Left. I'd like to know, where was the balance? Were there any Liberals at U.N.S.W. except me?