

I'm responding to an email sent to me by deaf friend about being asked to say what frustrates me the most. Here is below what frustrates me - quite a few things:

* not being able to get a job! (This is the most important for me, I have not been able to get another job since I finished my contract in the govt dept!!!! And I have all these skills! So VERY angry that employers are using other excuses not to employ me, saying it is not because I'm deaf when I know it is!! They know the law is there but yet they ignore it all the time!!! GET STRICTER please with these laws.

* Other most important thing is, WHY do jobs require phones all the time?? Why can't we have jobs that need phones all the time given solely to people just to man the phones while we deaf people do the rest of the admin work?? Would make it a lot easier for all of us to get into the workforce if all phone work was made into a single job itself for hearing people so that the rest of the jobs in the admin and other work areas can be given to deaf people. I missed out on a very very highly suitable job in the Disability Inc organisation all cos they needed me to use the phone! This made me VERY angry!

* being excluded from the world in general, sick of people who work in retail or other businesses and organisations who pretend to understand what I say or ignore me or ignore my simple signed requests to have a pen and paper to write down what I need to say to them and also too many inadequately trained people work in many places and have not served us deaf people fairly. Its a very broad subject this one, many places that serve clients or customers don't understand deafness and as a result we get dismissed, treated unfairly or like 2nd rate citizens. Like bus and taxi drivers have very little respect for deaf people, retailers are rude and don't listen to us - an example was last weekend my friend tried to order a subway and the attendant ignored her simple requests not to have salt and pepper on her subway and she got so angry and walked out.

* Make more services accessible to deaf people. This is one world - we all live in the same world, where is the fairness? And I would like to see not only the induction loop there but TEXT based things, like text everywhere on public transport instead of some silly hearing aid thing cos most of us are very deaf or if we are hearing impaired, we can't hear things that clearly and never will because we didnt have that auditory memory to be able to hear clearly words.

* Education and interpreting services all over the community - please ask the govt to stop limiting funding for these services!!! We all have an equal right to know exactly what is going on in our classes or appointments as hearing people do! We don't pay all those study fees for nothing. I want to see unlimited interpreting please.

Most of all I want to see A LOT more jobs, maybe 400% - 500% jobs made for deaf people very soon. I have been unemployed way too long and I am sick of it. I have been studying for a long time and yet no employer bothers to give my qualifications and skills a chance!!! And again please remove phone work from all general jobs. And maybe make technology and the internet/email system more available to everyone in the community - clients I mean, who need to contact organisations urgently.

Thank you so much for listening to my concerns and frustrations.

Kind regards,
Michelle