

To the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee for inquiry I have a severe hearing loss and I am raising these following issues through my observations and my own experience of being employed in the employment industry, applying for employment and attending to university.

Please find enclosed the following points I wish to raise with the committee within the employment industry and education system.

There is still indirrect discrimination existing in the employment industry for the people with disabiities deaf people even though equal opportunity guidelines are "supposed" to be implemented and often it is swepted under the carpet. Employers often choose a hearing person rather than an hearing impaired person.

Is it possible for stronger laws be implemented for this type of behaviour?

Further training to be developed about indirrect discrimination with in the workplace and the tertiary sector?

Maybe a survey needs to be conducted of all the deaf community to raise evidence of these issues.

There is not enough interpretors and note takers for the deaf community. There needs to be increased funding for the deaf community for this support. I know of an example of a deaf girl who attended to University, tried to keep up with her class work and was not able to obtain support for her education. In the end she had to give her studies away. I have heard many examples of this type of situation.

Many lecturers are not trained in how to treat a deaf person and providing information to the deaf students as they usually have to rely on reading to cover all what is being taught and what is required.

There needs to be more Funding for Community support workers and tutors to support the deaf students.

There needs to be funding to support the deaf workers for example equipment support, interpretors, note takers, funding to train the education system and the employment industry how to communicate and what support is needed for the deaf community.

The deaf community can attend to student unions, unions and disability organisations to gain extra support. In my experience it does not resolve the issues I have raised. There is still a need for the government to recognise it is a real issue and that funding needs to be addressed to support the deaf comunity.

In regards of Employment Related and education issues I stand firm that indirrect discrimination is still taking place and I would like the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee to start doing further investigation in these real concerns that do exist in the deaf community today in 2002.

Please provide me feed back on this information and what I need to do in future to put forward any complaints.

Anonymous (Name supplied)