

Serious vilification and hate crimes

Submission to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Queensland Parliament

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My personal experience of vilification and hate crime

My most memorable experience of vilification was when I was working as a specialist in training at the [REDACTED] Hospital. It was in an outpatient setting, and a patient refused to be seen by me because of my racial background. Never mind that I grew up in Canada, did high school in New Zealand, and completed all tertiary education including medical school in Australia.

After being informed by the admin and nursing staff that he had the choice of being seen by the doctor rostered on for the day or to be removed from the waiting list, the patient entered my treatment room for his biopsy. He made a remark that have stayed with me to this day. BEFORE I had even introduced myself, the patient said to me: "I would recommend you to my worst enemy".

This is not the first, nor the only vilification experience I have had in Australia. Being talked to loudly and slowly at shops. Being egged. Being told to "[REDACTED] go home". None of these things are new to me. This experience however really stayed with me. How much did the patient hate me that he had to tell it to me BEFORE I stuck a big biopsy needle into his liver? Without knowing who I am, where I came from, what my family and I had to go through to get to where I am, he saw a face, a name, and he hated me for it.

And no, I did not report this incident, just like I have not reported any of the previous incidences. Nothing ever comes of it, and those in authority neither care nor have time for my petty concerns. I grin and bear it, and I move on. That is how I have survived in the white society, and that is how I have gotten to where I am today.

My opinion on vilification and hate crime laws

In Australia, citizens do not have the right to defend themselves. If a home is invaded or burgled, the home owner risks facing charges if the invader/burglar is injured while they are committing a crime.

By the same account, victims of vilification and hate crimes do not have the right to defend themselves. And unless it is serious vilification, no police action will come of it. (Based on

number of convicted cases, not much really comes of serious vilification anyway). Given these circumstances, without stronger criminal laws enabling or requiring law enforcement to respond to vilification and hate crimes, victims are powerless and can only suffer in silence.

Therefore I believe only by making it a criminal offense will at risk communities have the potential protections that is supposed to be enjoyed by all citizenry of Australia.

As an immigrant country that relies so heavily on immigrants for population growth, labour force, exports (education system) and economic development, this kind of behaviour should have no place anywhere in Australia. Whether it is in real life, or in the digital realm, this kind of behaviour should be outlawed.