

Serious vilification and hate crimes

Submission to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Queensland Parliament

Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My personal experience of vilification and hate crime

I immigrated to Australia in 1986 at the age of 3. This is my story.

33 years ago in primary school, my classmates stabbed me with their pencil to see if my blood is red, because I was not white.

32 years ago in primary school, my classmates forced me to eat PVC glue because it was "just like wet rice". I was then sent to detention for spitting glue in class.

26 years ago, despite having identical academic records, the overall achievement award went to a white boy in the school instead of me. The reason provided by the school for this decision was "Jacqui didn't smile enough".

25 years ago in high school, I was not allowed to attend a friend's birthday party because her mother was concerned that I wouldn't fit into the party because of my poor English skills. English is my first language.

18 years ago in dental school, a white male patient I was treating started licking my gloved fingers mid-treatment because "I have been to Bali...I know you type of people likes these things."

16 years ago while working in Bundaberg, my very normal Australian accent was a constant source of wonderment and remark.

6 months ago at the professional dental study group made up of dentists, surgeons and dental specialists, the white young female president of the club mistakes me for the only other female Asian member of the group for the nth time. I have been a member of this study group for 8 years, there are only 24 members in the group.

I have lost count of the number of times that I have been shouted at, told to go home, talked to loudly and slowly or just generally ignored.

I am a small business owner, I employ 7 people, I pay my taxes.

I am also a second class Australian citizen.

There is nothing that I can do about it.

I survive.

I am teaching my 3 year old son the same lessons I have learned over the last 36 years.

My opinion on vilification and hate crime laws

Whether it is in real life or in cyberspace, vilification and hate crimes should have no place in a country that relies on immigration for its population growth, work force and economic development. Currently there is no protection against this kind of deplorable behaviour. People who vilify this way should be able to be held legally accountable for what they do.