

Submission on "A Fair Chance for all"

Considerations for breaking the disadvantage cycle for people with disabilities. First and most importantly, I make the point that submitting on line as a blind person is impossible because of the "recapture" requirement. The Recapture form of authentication is a hurdle that has prevented me responding to the call for comment in the conventional form. It is a barrier to being heard. Hence this email.

Response to questions posed.

1. Main aspects of disadvantage for focus?

Dissect the economic, social, educational and cultural barriers that limit disable people's access to work, including voluntary work and other ways of contributing to family life and society. Note the 2013 census finding that 24% of the population are affected by some kind of disability. Note also the various breakdowns of disability in that census report.

2. Where should the Commission focus its efforts?

Define and describe the systemic barriers to gainful work (including voluntary work) as a desirable way of life. E.G.: Poverty, Parenting, Access to early education, Early diagnosis and remediation of conditions E.G.:

dyslexia, Autism, poor sight and hearing etc., that limit personal potential. Ensure access to support education as required. Provide work experience with peers. Refer to Workbridge and expand and extend that service.

3. Where should Government focus its efforts finding solutions?

Having defined the extent and nature of the challenge, take a Whole of Government approach to remediating deficits in supports and services, and change attitudes toward disability to one of independence and of gainful employment; create a "Can Do" approach; aim at self-sufficiency and pride as a full and contributing person in society. Legislate as necessary. Focus on accessibility, availability of assistive devices and technology, design of the built environment, support services and social inclusion.