

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7Q3AA5

Name: Marina Chernishov

Submission Text:

My name is Marina Chernishov, I am a single parent who is currently studying Diploma of Welfare and Community Development at a Tafe College.

I write to you with dire concerns about the Brumby Government's new fee structure for Tafe Colleges and the cancellation of the concession cards, on July 1st, 2009. As I am one of those people who will be directly affected, I cannot understand how this new policy will create more skilled people in our workforce, and allow people from low socio-economic backgrounds, like myself, to further their education. If the cancellation of concession cards goes ahead, I will not be able to afford to go to school, as the fees will increase up to 500%. My goal for attending Tafe was to further my education, provide a better life for my son and myself, get a good job within the welfare sector, and ultimately give back to the community, not to mention getting off the welfare system. I believe that not only is this a human rights issue, but also a gender based policy that will directly impact many single mothers who wish to further their education. This will also affect migrants, refugees, and women who wish to return to the workforce. Cancelling the concession cards in Tafe Colleges, and increasing the fees will only deter people from furthering their education. I would also like to know how the State Government believes that this new policy will assist our worsening skills shortage? Education, especially in our Tafe Colleges should be available to all who have the desire to create a better future for themselves, without a HECS-styled fee before their education has even begun. Thank you

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