

Thank you for allowing me to provide feedback to your review.

I am a student with disabilities within the blind/low vision category using JAWS Screenreader.

I will be commenting on post-secondary education as in TAFE, Vocational Education and Training and University.

I have previously been a student at TAFE [REDACTED] and a continuing student at [REDACTED].

At TAFE [REDACTED], they advise one to speak to the disability advisor and teachers to determine generally if the course of study is accessible before enrolling. This provides a question of whether to proceed with the enrolment. As one can find a way to enrolment themselves by phone or internet, if one want to enroll in a TAFE course that is completely opposite to their disability even if advising the disability advisor, then they are at their own risk and resource.

In 2015-2016, I studied Diploma of Business Administration at TAFE [REDACTED]. In one unit, they require to use MYOB in which I was advised was inaccessible to JAWS Screenreader. Someone told me that QuickBooks was similar to MYOB and that there was a JAWS scripts, so my parents went to purchase the JAWS scripts but after purchasing the JAWS scripts, we found that the JAWS scripts relate to Northern hemisphere versions of QuickBooks. Someone else advised me that there were a number of other accounting software but on consulting the training.gov.au it would be unlikely that other accounting software would comply to Australian accounting requirements. So after a number of months of doing other units while waiting for a better solution assuming that TAFE [REDACTED] have to confirm that such alternative assessment arrangement is reasonable and maintains integrity of training system, that it was agreed that the assessment would be done by Microsoft Excel as that was defined the only software accessible to JAWS and can be made compliant with Australian Accounting requirements, and I successfully completed the assessment. I am concern that the vip-I and BCA-I email lists advising me that other JAWS Screenreader users at TAFE [REDACTED] but at different geographical campuses facing the same initial roadblock of completing an accounting type unit MYOB which is inaccessible to JAWS Screenreader. Can your standards be modified to require educational institutions to maintain a non-personally identifiable database on list of alternative assessment methods approved that can be accessed by the disability advisors of that institution?

In studying subjects at university and at TAFE that involve the use of an inaccessible computer software such as MYOB in Business Administration and Envivo in Social Science, where I been given an alternative assessment method, creates concerns of being unemployable as job advertisements specifically list such inaccessible computer software as essential. Currently I am studying at university again where Moodle, zoom and blackboard are used. Blackboard requires a sighted person to turn on audio and to find links in a live chat. Can your standards cover persons and

entities beyond educational providers to include industry accreditation bodies, software and online education providers when connected with area of study?

I have previously enquired into a course provided by a private vocational education and training provider however my enquiry did not proceed to an enrolment as they say they do not have disability services. The vip-I and BCA-I email lists advised me that other persons making enquiries at different private providers obtain responses to the same effect. Is it possible to amend standard and legislation to require private providers who do not have disability services to liaise with TAFE providers who have disability services to admit persons with disabilities into their educational institution?

I am studying at university in a degree opposite to disability. So far, I have managed by either internet research or asking second person to read out the visual items. The university has provided alternative assessment methods relevant to ability and provided alternative stream of subjects. The educational institution took a number of months to provide an alternative stream of subjects relating to reasonableness and integrity. My concern is that my employment prospects would be limited to disability sector. Other persons studying the same degree would have wider opportunity as they don't face my issues of inaccessible computer systems internet, intranet and software, trying to convert inaccessible documents to accessible ones, having to find a second person to read out visual items and the inaccessible hurdle of driver licence. Is it within scope to require educational institutions to have knowledge of disability accessible job prospects that are equivalent to job prospects of other students?

Again, thanks for allowing me to provide feedback to your review.

To Face the Future of Work, We Need New Approaches – Blind Citizens Australia, 2020, Blind Citizens Australia, last visited on Friday 17 July 2020, 12pm, <https://www.bca.org.au/2019/06/05/to-face-the-future-of-work-we-need-new-approaches/>