Campaign to help disabled workers struggling against employer bias

End this job apartheid

PEOPLE with disabilities are victims of an unintentional jobs apartheid by employers, says Workplace Relations Minister Bill Shorten, who today launches a campaign to change attitudes.

Mr Shorten said Australians supported and respected elite athletes at the Paralympics and it should be the same in the workplace.

“It’s almost an unintentional jobs apartheid where people with disabilities are the victims of an unconscious bias,” he said.

“They’re not getting the interviews, they’re not getting the promotions, they’re not getting considered, they’re not getting short listed.”

“We’re generous, easy-going, warm people, but when it comes to disability employment it would

Threatening violence increases
dangerous habit

Elissa Doherty

SCHOOLS should teach children that the principle “you are what you eat” also applies to violent video games and movies, experts say.

A major review of research has found repeated exposure to media violence increases the risk of aggression.

The findings, by the peak body for scientists studying aggression, have renewed calls for an overhaul of the classification system.

The Media Violence Commission, established by the International Society for Research on Aggression, found that “every player or viewer” is affected in some way.

The report found violent media can trigger aggressive memories. If repeatedly activated they can become “chronically accessible” and more likely to influence behaviour.

Australian academic Dr Wayne Warburton, one of the authors, said there was still a public conception that the “jury is out” on the media violence issue.

“The vast majority of the scientific community does not agree with that viewpoint,” he said.

The study said ratings systems were too vague.

“Schools may help parents by teaching children from an early age to be critical consumers of the media and that, just like food, the ‘you are what you eat’ principle applies to healthy media consumption,” it says.

Prof Elizabeth Handsley, president of the Council on Children and the Media, said our classification system should be based on scientific evidence.

“The present system is based on concepts like offence and conclusion that have no basis in science,” she said.

“Research tells us which kinds of violence raise the risk of an adverse influence on children at different ages.

“The criteria should be revised to reflect this knowledge.”

Aussie brewers cap it off

FOREIGN beers brewed in Australia have beaten the same brands imported here in a taste test.

In a Choice survey, a panel of six experts tested Peroni Naastro, Stella, Becks, Heineken, Grolsch, Kronenbourg 1664 and Corona.

Each was reviewed for appearance, aroma, flavour and technical composition.

Choice spokeswoman Ingrid Just said the locally brewed beers had advantages.

“Many factors influence the flavour of a beer, including deterioration over time,” Ms Just said.

“Some imported beers can take up to eight weeks to get to Australia and can then spend up to six weeks sitting in very warm conditions in containers on the docks.”

The top-rated beer was Grolsch, produced in NSW, which was found to have a “lively, full flavour” compared with the imported version, which was “stale” and “hard to love”, Ms Just said.

Local breweries often imported ingredients to better match the flavours of imported beers.

“When you consider all these factors, it’s not surprising the locally brewed foreign labels compete very well with the home country’s product,” she said.

The Italian Peroni Naastro was the highest-ranked imported beer.

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