

My name is Andrew Rankine, I am 48 years old, I have a family, a mortgage and a 40 thousand-dollar HECS dept for a degree I cannot complete, due to the discriminatory white supremacist style aspects of the Australian governments Lantite tests, that don't take into account an individual's race, religion, geographic location, age or previous level of education, just to name a few.

I began my degree part time in 2012, four years before the Lantite test was introduced, and later made a mandatory graduation requirement in 2016

Not only did I have to deal with the anxiety of learning how to learn again after 25 years out of school, but I have to deal with depression caused by the fear of failure and self-pressure to achieve excellent grades.

I made the most of my opportunity to re-train, and slowly the thought of becoming a secondary education, technology teacher, and passing on my 25 years of trade knowledge and life experiences was looking to be both achievable and very exciting.

My degree has taken a number of extra years, work, family and life all created major and minor hurdles, but by far the hardest was watching and supporting my wife as she endured a double mastectomy, and 12 months of chemotherapy thanks to breast cancer, juggling work, university, doctor's appointments and kids was tough. Then when things looked to be getting back on track, my father passed away. Determined to finish what I had started I stuck at it and pressed on.

I have now completed all my University courses bar one, my final internship. I have a grade point average above the entry level to qualify for a graded honours pathway. Graduating seemed so close, but then I was told I could not enrol until I had passed both literacy and numeracy Lantite test. I have passed the numeracy test, but failed literacy twice now.

I feel inadequate as a person because the media portrays the Lantite test as an easy year 9 Naplan style test, this is not the case and even ACER, the testing authority has admitted the test is way more advanced than year 9, and the ambiguity of the questions and answers are designed to trip you up. As a result, I feel I am being judged by friends and family, often receiving comments like "how hard is it, you should have finished by now" and "really you failed a year 9 literacy test".

The tests are inappropriate and don't meet the needs of the individuals learning style, that during all my university courses are drummed into us, we need to modify tests and tasks to suit the individual learner and their learning style, but yet we are defined by a test that has an ideology of one shoe fits all. I can read, write and spell perfectly, but I don't think as quick as person half my age, I can do the test, but I just can't do it in the allocated two hours.

The biggest losers are the students of today, and the future students of tomorrow, as I stated earlier, I have over 2 decades of industry experience as a traditional cabinetmaker, building construction and drafting that I would like to bring to the classroom, but I can't.

The only thing that is stopping me from completing my degree is the literacy Lantite test, that now makes me feel sick in the stomach when I think about it. My motivation to continue studying for this test is gone, the fear of failure, and again leading to be judged as inadequate or stupid by others haunts me.

All I want to do is graduate and become a technology teacher, guide, motivate and encourage students to learn new skills, tool techniques, design thinking and how to think outside the box, so they can become confident social citizens that can contribute to local economies and live a prosperous life for themselves and future families, but while the Lantite Literacy test stands in my way I can't help but feel this will never happen.

Kind Regards

Andrew Rankine