

BARRIERS TO ENTRY INTO LAW SCHOOL: AN EXAMINATION OF SOCIO -ECONOMIC AND INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

ANGELA MELVILLE

ABSTRACT

The Australian legal profession persistently remains the domain of the white middle-class. This article identifies barriers in entering and then completing law school which act to prevent people from low SES backgrounds and Indigenous Australians from entering the legal profession. These barriers have persisted despite a long history of policies aimed at diversifying the Australia's university student population. This article also considers strategies that have been relied upon by universities to increase student diversification. However, many of the strategies that are most heavily relied upon are based on false common-sense assumptions, rather than empirical evidence. Despite the failures of the past, strategies to increase participation of students from traditionally excluded groups in law schools are not necessarily doomed.