

Institutional Racism Scenarios

The Racial State Week 8

M E N U

Assess in which ways each 'menu item' is institutionally racist.
Do you need more information to make the case for institutional racism?

If so, what information do you need?

What are the pros and cons of judging each case institutionally racist?

How would different parties see each case?

AT SCHOOL

A public school has five houses into which the students are divided. Each house is named after an Australian sporting hero from the twentieth century.

WHILE TRAVELLING

A professional heterosexual couple is travelling by plane in the US. The man is of Indian origin and the woman is white. The woman is preselected for priority security clearance but the man is not.

AFTER SCHOOL

There is a barbecue after school at your child's public school. The only food on offer is sausages. The teacher says those who cannot eat sausages are free to bring their own food.

AT UNI

In a tutorial at your university, the tutor asks the Chinese students to suggest an English name to use in class to 'make things easier'.

AT WORK

A female Muslim student who wears a hijab is looking for a part-time job at a retail outlet. She is called for an interview. The person interviewing her asks her if she would remind removing her hijab for work.

IN THE MEDIA

There has been a case of shoplifting in your local area reported on in the local paper. The report says that the shoplifters were young Aboriginal men.

HIRING

You and your colleagues are responsible for hiring a new staff member. After the interview, you have a debate about which of the candidates would be easier to get along with. Your colleague suggests that one of the candidates, a Muslim man, would not be a good choice because 'you want someone you can go down the pub with.'