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SORRY WE DON'T TAKE THAT – BY AMANDA NELSON

Welcome to the next article in this series of the vi talk blog. Now as you will be aware, we've been looking at travel, mobility and transport and how aspects of these affect our lives. This week, Amanda Nelson has written about how the lack of a driving license has affected her search for employment. Many thanks Amanda for a great article 😊

Sorry, we don't take that...

By Amanda Nelson

714 job applications and continuing that's the number of applications that I've applied for since I've landed on Unemployment Island in 2013. The applications are usually very simple and straight forward, however on most job applications I get a similar question to this, "Do you have a driver's license, or do you have the ability to obtain one?" Due to my disability, I'm required to say no.

The circle of applications goes a little something like this: Apply for a job and within seconds of working tirelessly to fill out the application get a job rejection, hear nothing back, job gets filled by someone else, and they don't send out a rejection letter...then there are a rare few occasions where I'm asked to come in for a job interview, however along with the job interview offer I hear something along the lines of, "Please bring in your driver's license and social security card," After explaining that I don't have a driver's license, due to a disability, and that I have a state issued identification card I usually hear, "We don't take that." Even with jobs, that don't mention anything about having the requirement to drive on the job description.

This makes me sad. I recently learned, according to Florida's www.dmv.org (<http://www.dmv.org/>) Website, "Florida ID cards can be also be very helpful during emergencies-such as automobile accidents or cases or missing persons- and qualify as a federal form of identification with the Real ID ACT." I have even explained this law to a few employers and when they have stated that they do not take my state issued Identification card, they reply with something like, "Its company policy that we don't take ID cards." Even with this being the law, I can't challenge this issue because driving may be an essential requirement for the job, or a company may have a policy for all their employees to follow.