

Equal Opportunity Training Video

This scenario considers discrimination in the workplace and an approach for managing behaviour.

Key personalities in this scene are:

Mick - man from New Zealand

Richard - Mick's line manager

Greg - person complained against



Transcript

Act I

Mick, who is from New Zealand, works in a Council maintenance team. He is referred to as “the sheep shagger” by Greg, one of the other workers.

Setting: Main delivery area near the back of the local council chambers.

Greg Hey, there's a sheep shagger, mate! Baaaa...

Greg and co-worker laugh

Act II

Mick complains to Richard, the supervisor.

Setting: A small office, just to the side of the main delivery area near the back of the local council chambers.

Mick G'day Richard, can I have a word, mate?

Richard Sure Mick....what's up?

Mick I've had a gut full of Greg's comments.

Richard Greg? What's he been saying?

Mick Calling me 'sheep shagger'. Picking on me because I'm a Kiwi - be alright if he gave it a rest, but he just won't ease up.

Richard How long's this been going on for?

Mick A few weeks.

Richard Well, what've you done about it?

Mick I've asked him to ease up but he just doesn't listen and it's just getting too much. You know, I just had enough. The others make it worse by egging him on. He doesn't think. He thinks it's a big joke. It's not a joke.

Richard It's not a joke, no. Well, what would you like me to do about it?

Mick I dunno. Have a word to him? Talk to him. See if you can get him to stop because, you know, I don't want the other guys to think I'm a whinger. I'm not a whinger, I just...

Richard Don't take this the wrong way but do you think that you might just be over reacting a little bit?

Mick Nah, nah... It's really getting' to me...

Richard What do you mean it getting to you?

Mick Well, I'm starting to take it home. The wife thinks I should complain or get out if I'm not happy, and I don't know what to do. Feel like punching his lights out. I've had enough, alright?

Richard OK, OK. You've made your point. Just leave it with me.

Mick Alright.

Richard I'll go speak to Greg and I'll let you know what happens, OK.

Mick OK. Cheers.

Richard And just...Mick. Just keep it to yourself.

Mick Sure.

Mick leaves.

Act III

Richard speaks to Greg, warning him of the consequences of continuing with racial taunts. Greg argues that "sheep shagger" isn't a racial taunt and that Mick needs to get a sense of humour.

Setting: Outside the council machinery area.

Richard beckons to **Greg** who is working on the underside of a lawn tractor.

Richard Greg, you got a minute?

Greg Yeh... What's up?

Greg walks up the stairs and wipes his hands.

Greg Yeh, bud...?

Richard Look, I've had a complaint about your behaviour and I need to know your side of the story.

Greg [looks surprised - speaks a bit louder] About me? What's going on?

Richard Mick reckons you've been calling him names, like 'sheep shagger' and you just don't let up on it... If it's true, it's serious Greg.

Greg Mate, we all carry on like that - you know what it's like. Why're you pickin' on me for?

Richard Is it true?

Greg Well, yeah, it's true. But this ain't the Hilton mate, it's the depot!

Richard sighs.

Greg Well, what's the problem?

Richard Look, if it's true I want it to stop.

Greg Mate, y'know...

Richard Greg... it's against the policy... Might even be against the law...

Greg Hang on, you've never told us about this before... So why is it such an issue now? I mean, mate, we've been carrying on out here forever. Why, why say this now?

Richard That's because most of the time you blokes don't cross the line. This time you have.

Greg Whaddaya mean line?

Quick fade to black.