



← **Kim Sterelny** <kim.sterelny@anu.edu.au>  
to me ▾

Tue, Oct 5, 2021, 12:17 AM ☆ ↩ Reply ⋮

Hi Kelly

I am sorry to have to say this, but I am not prepared to take you on as a graduate student, should you succeed (much against my expectations) in re-enrolling in the ANU, either with funding, or by being able to fund your own studies. I know this must be disappointing, but the e-mails you have sent me make me think that your plans here have not been rationally thought through, and I do not want to be part of encouraging or enabling you to embark on plans that will go no-where. Here are some of the reasons I am responding in this way.

First: the idea that NZ is legally a state of Australia and that the High Court might somehow order a NZ university to train you in medicine is so obviously false that I do not know what to say. This in itself makes me believe you are not realistically thinking about your future.

Second: it is completely unclear why you want to come back to ANU and do a Ph.D in philosophy. For some reason, you seem to have your heart set on medical training, though even about that you seem to have reservations. A Ph.D in philosophy is not going to lead to an enrolment in medicine. And as you know, the academic job market in philosophy is horrible, and especially brutal for those who emerge from a Ph.D later in life: ask Ben Jeffares and Brett Calcott, and it has got more difficult since, much more so, because of the Covid economic consequences. Doing a Ph.D in philosophy does not seem to be part of a well thought out pathway in life for you.

Nor, of course, would I be academically suitable for projects in the philosophy of medicine and/or anything related to ethics.

I am pleased that you liked life in Canberra (so do I) and am sorry that your enrolment in philosophy at the ANU did not work out for you. I do not recall the specific incidents you have mentioned in your last few e-mails, but that is not surprising, given the time that has gone past. But at this stage in your life, given all that has happened in New Zealand, becoming medically trained is no longer a realistic plan. I do not see a Ph.D in philosophy through the ANU as a realistic choice either

**Kim**