

Additional info.

1.

Our area has an alarming youth suicide rate. In fact 2 of my young clients/ job seekers suicided on the same weekend in 2016. (Not related to any centrelink issues to my knowledge). This is devastating to our community . Youth engagement is something seriously lacking in our community, and we need to be exploring ways to change that, as an immediate priority.

We have in our midst a dynamic young fellow (aged 23) who is working hard for youth engagement through his volunteer work at our local Neighbourhood House. He is a Youth advisor on the Neighbourhood House Tasmania committee , and is also employed in a part time paid role within the house through it's thrive program. He also recently stood for local Council and is on the Youth Advisory committee for local Council. He is also studying part time. His job service provider demanded that he take on a low paid traineeship , which would have prevented his involvement in the important work he is doing in youth services in our community, plus lost his position on the board, and his paid role, which will ultimately lead him to working with the community in an area that he is passionate. He would also have had to cease his study, which he travels to Launceston for. His provider insisted that he take on this traineeships, and when he refused to, he was penalized by his provider and cut off his centrelink payments, and forced to re-apply after a waiting period of 4 to 6 weeks, and has been forced to live on his meager income of just \$300 per fortnight.. This to me is disgraceful. The traineeship would never have lead him to sustainable long term employment as his current work will, and he should never have been forced into this situation. He has his future mapped out for himself. He stuck to his guns and stood up for what he knows is right for this community and was penalised for it. Despite the manager of the Neighbourhood House writing to an appeal for him. He is still waiting on the outcome of the appeal. He has been without any Centrelink assistance for more than 8 weeks now.

2.

Fuel cards need to be readily available especially with the dramatic increase in fuel prices. ULP in Tasmania is currently over \$160 per litre. Many of my clients live in Mathinna, which is in excess of 100km and 1hr and 40 mins from the office. Many of my job seekers also drive old inefficient cars which use around 20ltr per 100 km. Meaning the return trip for an appointment for a job seeker in Mathinna could cost them as much as \$64 and over 3 hours to attend a 15 minute appointment.

My employer previously supplied me with Caltex fuel cards, however these were no used to over 80% of my job seekers as there is no Caltex within a reasonable distance to them. There is only one in the entire municipality, 35 km from my office. I have requested BP cards and was told I would be able to get some, but for approximately 18 months, have not had access to any fuel cards at all for my job seekers.