

SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SENATE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

My name is _____; I am an Australian man who is out of work. I choose not to use the word 'unemployed' because it has too many negative connotations to me. For the past six years I have been out of a job, even though I have been trying to find employment. When I have been not working, I have been studying to increase and broaden my knowledge and increase the possibility of gaining full-time employment.

My purpose in writing this submission is to demonstrate through my own personal experience that being out of a job in my own country, is a situation that I never thought I would have to endure. Unemployment in this country destroys peoples' will, their hopes and their dreams of achieving better and fulfilled lives.

The qualifications I hold now are as follows; Certificate of Retail Studies, Certificate of Office and Secretarial Studies, Associate Diploma of Business in Office and Secretarial Studies, Certificate II in Resource Processing and a Certificate II in Security Operations. I also have a Statement of Attainment from Sterling Business College in Perth, Western Australia for a Diploma of Marketing that I was studying for in 2010.

HOW UNEMPLOYMENT HAS AFFECTED MY LIFE

In my opinion, unemployment is a curse; it has done nothing for me. In my opinion, employers deliberately discriminate against me when I apply for work, simply because I am out of a job when I apply. Of course, I cannot prove that I am being discriminated against by any employer because employers will not state so in writing nor say it directly to me.

The amount of money that I receive from Centrelink on a fortnightly basis is *barely* enough for me to pay my rent and buy my food. Once I have paid for these two necessities, I have only a small amount of discretionary money left that I am able to spend as I choose.

I am currently sharing a house in _____, with my landlord and six other people. All of these people are very nice, but they too are struggling to make ends meet, even though they are working.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGED

It would be a great help to people like me who are surviving on Newstart Allowance, to have an increase in the payment of this allowance. This increase would go a little way to address the imbalance that has existed between those in our country who are out of work, and those who are in employment.

I realise that it is up to both the Minister and the Federal Government to legislate for an increase in the rate of Newstart Allowance, but is not the mark of a compassionate and just society how it treats those citizens who are out of work, living on pensions or are homeless. Such an increase would allow people like me to have a standard of living that would give all of us hope for the future. I do want to work; I can assure you of that one hundred percent.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this is an issue that my country must change for the better and soon. If it is not, then we will condemn Australians who are out of work to a life of poverty and misery that is morally wrong.