

Submission

**Proposed Social Security Legislation Amendment
(Further Strengthening Job Seeker Compliance) Bill 2015.**

From
Kathy Dora

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the proposed Social Security Legislation Amendment (Further Strengthening Job Seeker Compliance) Bill 2015.

It is distressing for me to be writing a short formal response on a single Amendment Bill which merely seeks to implement further measures which will, in my opinion only deepen the corruptive influence already embedded in the sector. The government has yet to honestly address the many issues of corruption within and throughout the sector.

I find it distressing to write this submission because my own experience has been one of ongoing harassment, bullying, deprivation, intimidation, intolerance and passive/aggressive denial by a number of individuals and agencies who are said to be acting in my better interest and the better interest of all Australians.

As a result of being deceived, bullied and having my rights taken from me without due regard to open disclosure or informed consent, I have done some research of my own.

According to my research such treatment of people is known as *no touch torture*. This no touch application of torture is designed to inflict a condition known as "*Learned Helplessness*". Under international law, torture is unlawful.

That our own government is turning a blind eye to the fact that individuals under its care are being wilfully deprived of their rights and subjected to torture of any description is atrocious. I shudder to think what damage is being inflicted by other private enterprise contractors who's role it is to protect and care for vulnerable people.

I am shocked by what I've learned about the many policy influencers and other vested interest entities that stand to earn millions and/or billions of tax payer dollars resulting from the lack of viable working options in Australia.

Without going into too detailed an account here, I have found myself in an ethical and moral dilemma over my need to find viable honest work, my need for a financial safety net and my ethical objection to misanthropic and often transnational vested interests who profit at taxpayers' expense from the shortage of jobs in Australia.

I now face the very real prospect of becoming homeless as a result of continued bullying, denials and failures of service from this sector. Other people with similar experiences have very few voices speaking on their behalf, I therefore feel that I must voice these very serious and real concerns through this submission. There are many vulnerable people suffering already within the current climate of job losses, job shortages and extreme unnecessary public vilification through media and other slanderous campaigns.

We are not simply "the unemployed", we are past and future tax payers. We are the voters, the citizens and the children of this country. Unfortunately, under current legislation, we also join a growing list of victims of this country and its stubborn persistence to an increasingly callous approach to government.

To allow profiteering against this already vulnerable group takes a certain depth of cynical prowess which tends to only manifest itself in history's worst case scenarios and is utterly out of step with a forward thinking country that calls itself a democracy.

Negative consequences arising from introducing even further hardships for the disadvantaged are inevitable. In current times one expects government to understand this and to properly and

conscientiously right the wrongs.

What logical justification is there in making life more difficult for vulnerable people who are already at the very limits of their ability to cope? Just because these things are somehow written into legislation does not make them right.

I sincerely believe that, at the very least, government truly needs to refrain from further punitive amendments to current legislation. It would go a long way also to introduce a thorough examination of current practices and to formulate a more inclusive approach in consultation with those individuals who are at the living end of policy.

K. Dora