

96 David Street
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Saturday 5th June, 1999

I am writing as a response to the newspaper article which appeared in today's Age newspaper concerning 'over 50s on the economic scrapheap.

I am very worried about my own situation. I am 32 years of age, a university graduate, who has never had a permanent full-time job. I have had numerous temporary jobs. My concern is that I may end up being one of these people, if the unemployment situation does not significantly improve. I am socioeconomically deemed 'poor'.

I have skills and qualifications which are of the highest order. I face discrimination because I am too well educated. I am a qualified software engineer, graduating in 1993. I can not obtain work as I have very little experience in software engineering since graduation.

Generation X has also suffered, due to the economic climate of the 1990s. We want our rightful place in the permanent job market. We do not want temporary, casual work. We want to make a go of our lives.

Please, enact laws which make discrimination on the basis of age for potential recruitment ILLEGAL. Invest money in creating permanent full-time jobs, through tax breaks to business. Also, when the unemployment statistics are quoted, please cite only the number of people who do not have permanent full-time jobs and the relevant percentage figure. I suspect the true p.c. figure not to be 7.5% but 12.5%.

Please, address all aspects of the unemployment problem. The gap between the rich and the poor is getting wider.

We need our politicians to engage in meaningful discussion with the community to address the hard issues facing all the unemployment, and the community at large.

We used to provide a 'fair go' for all Australians, where everyone had the chance to succeed. We are now very unegalitarian when it comes to allocating work to the Australian people.

We need real answers, not band-aid solutions, e.g. Work for the Dole.

I eagerly await your response.

Yours faithfully,

Peter T. Dalton
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