

Ben Grummels
C/ WebWeavers
POB 334
Scarborough WA 6019

Subject: 45 - SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

On 11 April I will be 47 yo. Over recent years I have been a contract type worker, in remote places. While I have enjoyed these assignments (one funded by DEETYA) where I've organised further training for others, as a contract worker, I got very little professional development for myself. Recently it has been harder to get interviews let alone work and guess that employers or their agents trash applications I've spent hours on, as soon as they see my age, despite the skills I might bring to their organisation.

After serving Australia overseas I started up my own VERY successful business for 5 years but after political trouble was kicked out of the Cook Islands by their current drunken Prime Minister, despite contravention of the UN Charter of Human Rights and lobbying from the then Prime Minister of NZ. It meant as an old guy starting again in Australia with my young Polynesian family. I knew life wouldn't be easy. Now I'm in a small flat, trying to pay a mortgage with dole payments. My desk is next to bunks, in the one bedroom where my 2 yo crawls and disturbs my PC and paper work. I need the office I can't afford.

There is a lot of truth in the statement, it's not what you know, it's who you know. Unfortunately not having lived in Perth during the prime of my working life, I don't have a lot of contacts here. My last contract was for 5 months in Bunbury just after the government relocation assistance was cut. It cost us thousands moving there and back, which meant all our disposable income was eaten up. 5 months work for financial nothing! To make matters worse as of the 1 Jan 99. I read about a further penalty for seasonal or contract workers, by the increase wait for dole payments. I'd have to have rocks in my head to replace teachers on long service leave again. It just isn't worth it.

I have a self taught (in the remote deserts of WA) interest in multimedia and would love retraining in this field at the Uni. near by but having to support a family, don't think I can afford either the cost of training or time out of the work force. Because of the bleak job hunting results so far, I've started beating the feet to businesses to see if they need their www sites updated but so far have not received one payment.

Now I'm wondering what DEETYA can do to retain me without losing the second home I've owned. (the first was sold/lost in 1981 to fund my business in the Cook Islands)

PS If you know any person/organisation that wants professional web pages/updates for as low as \$20, please could you give me a lead. Would Austrade bat for me overseas – I don't think so. I guess they only server large corporate clients.