

Angela Hucker
Murrenbong
RMB 471
Willaura3379

I am responding to an article in the local paper "Workers over 45 under microscope".

For 23 years I worked as a Bush Nurse at our local Bush Nursing Centre firstly as a casual for 15 years then part time for eight years. I was not given the option of work status either to remain casual or have the right to be paid time earlier in my career. After 23 years I needed a change as we often worked and were On Call for periods of up to 72 hours straight and thought I would be able to gain employment at one of the surrounding hospitals, and had done a number of training courses related to Remote and General Nursing.

The responses from the 6 hospitals I responded to advertised positions and approached ranged from:
Not Qualified

Haven't worked in a hospital
Only train people under 40
Only train local nurses who will continue to work for us
You live more than 20 minutes from work and so are not able to be On Call
Qualifications are not specialised in our area

As a result of the above I only have \$3000.00 in superannuation which by retirement age will be whittled away in fees. I live on a farm that has returned a negative income for two years so I am unable to contribute more to my superannuation. The nearest town is 76 Kms. away and my employment prospects are bleak.

Hopefully my position will help you understand some of the issues affecting the employment of rural women in general.