

Phone 43 900 656
Doyalson Centre
Message Bank

Chairman
B. Mortlock
43 907605

Secretary
J. Cambourn
43 581473

Director
Computer Training
W.Lawson
43 328174

Director
Outside Contracting
D.Hudson
43 900063

7February , 2000 .

The Chairman ,
House of Representatives
Standing Committee On Employment , Education And Workplace Relations ,

Dear Sir ,

Following our earlier submission , we thank you for the opportunity to briefly speak about our experiences in the field of mature aged unemployed people and to be able to present to the Committee some material which it may be prepared to consider when compiling the final report .

The specific issues are, how do people over 45 years find work or establish a small business to create sufficient income to support themselves and their family .

At the same time we understand the Committee is interested in how employers handle retrenchments and whether a code of conduct should exist .

If we look at the three issues in turn , the reasons for unemployed people over 45 years of age being unable to find regular work in the northern end of Wyong Shire on the Central Coast of N.S.W. could be ;

- 1) About thirty years ago the population growth was due to the construction of power stations and the opening up of coal mines . A relatively small number of people , probably having moved from Sydney , would have been employed by Companies attracted to the area by re-location incentives . Others may have found work in Newcastle , an hours drive further north .
- 2) The other long established industry was fishing on Lake Macquarie and the Tuggerah Lakes system .

Result ; The retrenchment of thousands of workers from the power stations and coal mines has forced many people onto unemployed benefits . A large percentage of these are in the over 45 years of age bracket .

Despite many of these workers having trade skills there is little scope for them being able to be exploited in Newcastle , for well documented reasons and the cost of travel , board or moving to Sydney is beyond their financial capacity .

Of very recent times the current State Labor Government has indicated that fishermen on the Lakes system will be removed , thus causing a flow –on effect through their Co- operatives and other outlets , which will result in more job losses in the mature age group .

Suggestions :

Encourage and fund groups such as ours to research and launch viable working opportunities for those qualified people who are currently unemployed .

Fund worthwhile projects in the vast expanses of unused Power Station land e.g. Aquaculture .

Provide a solution for Central Coast residents who seem likely to lose their traditional source of seafood .

Formulate a policy with the local Bus operator to enable the youth and unemployed (some are both) of the northern end of Wyong Shire to have a reasonable access to job opportunities which are available to their city counterparts .

Unemployed establishing a business .

It would take a very brave unemployed person to commence a business in the Wyong Shire , unless it was connected with the Building Industry . The satellite city of Warnervale is reputed to be the most rapidly developing area in N.S.W. so far as housing development is concerned .

Jobs which are available here are , in the main , taken by people in younger age groups .

We understand , however , that employment opportunities exist on the north shore of Sydney and particularly the northern beaches , in a wide range of industries .

Suggestions :

It is paramount that the Federal Government and the N.S.W. Government provide access to the job market in Sydney with the unemployed labour force which exists in the Wyong Shire . A rapid ferry service across the mouth of the Hawkesbury River and linking bus services would ease the demand for employees on the northern beaches .

A wider freeway from the Central Coast to Sydney's north shore would allow a greater traffic flow . (The 8 lane freeway from the Gold Coast to Brisbane is a prime example of what is needed .)

Code of Conduct :

Whilst we are an Organisation committed to creating training opportunities for unemployed people in our region , we are not unaware of the difficulties experienced by workers who have been treated unfairly in retrenchment situations .

We imagine that your discussions in regard to this matter will mainly be carried out with Employers and we know that in to-days workplace environment they are more concerned with employees signing individual contracts with them , rather than having a two way agreement .

However , we are all aware of the problems created for Governments when employers, both large and small, deny workers their legal entitlements as they are made redundant .

These actions amount , in some instances, to white collar crime and it is our belief that is the responsibility of all political parties to introduce legislation which protects workers entitlements and provides penalties for those who seek to deny them .

Suggestion :

Recommend in your report that , in view of the trend for Company Directors to avoid their responsibilities in the cases of forced redundancies and failed businesses , legislation be introduced to initiate a Code of Conduct .

Summary :

We have endeavoured to provide factual examples of the problems confronting mature age unemployed , particularly in the northern areas of Wyong Shire and to suggest solutions which are practical and have been introduced elsewhere to alleviate unemployment , or to instigate a service which

enables unemployed people to have similar access to job opportunities , as in better serviced regions .

Should you require any further information , or wish to visit our Training Centre , we would be only too pleased to assist .

Yours Faithfully ,

Secretary: *Jack Cambourn* Jack Cambourn .

Chairman: *Bob Mortlock* Bob Mortlock .

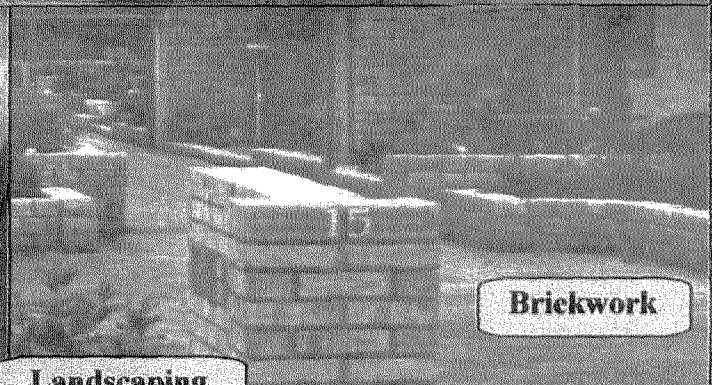
Working Nation
Incorporating Mature-Age Training Extension Services



Fencing

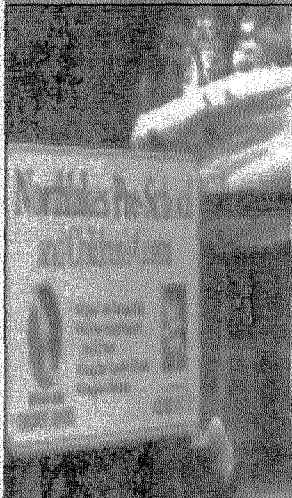


Fabricating

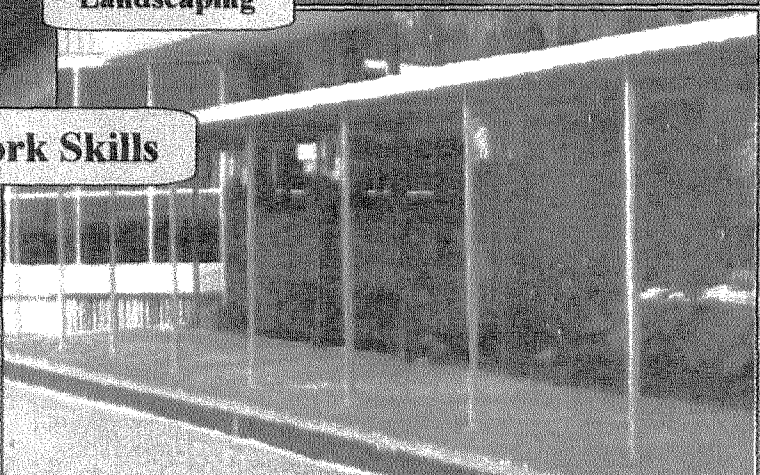


Brickwork

Landscaping



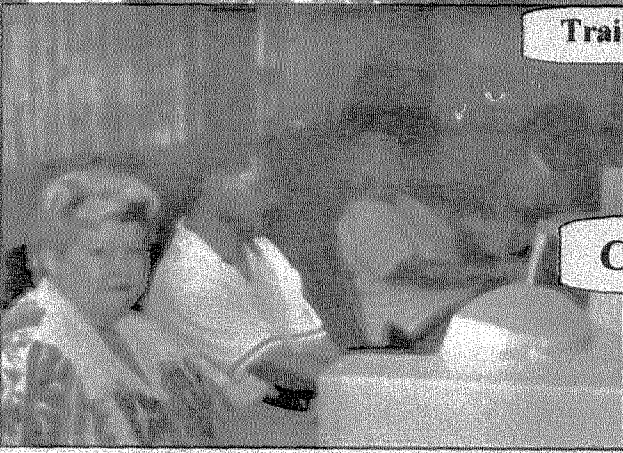
Work Skills



Welding



Training for all Ages



Computer Training

