

I am Narayanan Sampath. I arrived in Australia on 14 December 1971 to take up the job as a Geophysicist with the former Bureau of Mineral Resources from India. I am a naturalised citizen of Australia. I was offered a compulsory voluntary redundancy package which I had to take and took it on 15 July 1992. If I had not taken it, I was told that I would be involuntarily retrenched from duties and lose the benefits of the offer. On 15 July 1993, I started an Indian Restaurant specialising in the South Indian Cuisine. This created an employment for myself and employment opportunities for a few others. I had to sell the business because of high rental, wages, long hours and not enough money to survive. I was under the hope that I will get some work to keep me going while my wife became the main bread winner. I sought the help of Mr. Geoff Gorrie of the Forestry Division of the former Department of Primary Industries and Energy, without much luck. Geoff tried his best to help me. My age, my qualifications and the colour has not helped much. I tried to seek the help of Mr. John Langmore and later Mr. Steve Dargavel without much success. I joined REAMP in July 1998 and heard about this submission to be made and I hope that I can talk to some one in the committee and explain my position in detail. I have neither any money nor any self esteem left in me any more. I am not entitled for any benefits from the government because my wife is working. I am going to be sixty in June 1999 and I am not eligible for any old age pension or similar help from any government agencies.

I had a stroke in December 1990 which was caused by people at work and partly domestic. I was asked by the Bureau to apply for COMCARE which was knocked back for wrong reasons. I could not afford the legal help and hence I lost the appeal with the AAT.

After reading this, if I am granted an interview either with the Minister or his nominee or any other person who has got the will to do something to salvage me from the scrapheap, I will be grateful.

Last but not the least, I offered to work for nothing to any employer during my training period. After all we mature aged people do not need a lot of training except showing the monkey the old tricks. I feel so frustrated that I feel like committing suicide sometimes. Instead of this, I have put my house on the market to sell, pack up and go back to India where I will be among the people I was born among. It is a pity that a country which offered me a job and greeted me with open arms 28 years ago is driving me out of this country.

(Narayanan Sampath)
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