

COTA (NSW)

Council on the Ageing (NSW) Inc
Evtofc 1956

February 6, 2004.

Ms. Cheryl Scarlett
Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Employment and Workplace Relations
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Scarlett,

Re: Sydney Public Hearing 28 January 2004-02-04
Attendance of COTA (NSW)

Your letter of February 1 and Hansard Proof pp. 24-33 refers.

I enclose the copy of the Proof Transcript supplied. Thank you. There are two small edits on pp. 24 and 25.

The issues from the perspective of COTA (NSW) are:

- o *That besides the 600,000 or so families in Australia where there is long term 'structural unemployment', there are estimated to be tens even hundreds of thousands of capable persons over 45 in the largely 'hidden unemployed' market. These persons are likely to be of professional and managerial background, highly capable, many multi-lingual. Once unemployed, they find it takes two years or more to obtain alternative employment — if, in fact, they do. Many simply leave the market.*
- o *These people are typically not eligible for Centrelink support. Only such programs as the Mature Workers Program in NSW assist such persons. It reaches approx. 12,000 mature workers in NSW p. a.*
- o *There is a patent need for better information accumulation, access, advice and support for all such persons. A Mature Age (over 45) Employment Hotline is needed and, subject to funding, is being developed by COTA (NSW).*
- o *Case management by suitably chosen and trained consultants is a most effective strategy for mature workers.*
- o *The need for a change in approach by employers and consultants. We recommend considering an employers' round table in each State and Territory.*
- o *The need to match potential workers, training and jobs availability in regional areas.*

At the hearing COTA (NSW) was asked to make inquiries and respond further with respect to:

- o The Mature Workers Program placement rate.
- o Case examples of successful Mature Workers placement.

The Mature Workers Program managed by the NSW Department of Education and Training, and supplied through 60 independent contractors and trained consultants, services approximately 12,000 clients p.a. of which it places 5,000 p.a. The total NSW program costs \$3.2m. p.a. to administer.

Some examples of successful mature worker placement and recent media contact are attached and/or will be forwarded.

I will be grateful if you will provide this correspondence to the Committee.

Please contact the writer for any further response.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Tucker
Executive Director
COTA (NSW)

PAIRON:

*Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC
Governor of New South Wales*

Council on the Ageing (NSW) Inc. ABN 31 090 328 955

*Level 4, 280 Pitt Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 9286 3860
Facsimile: (02) 9286 3872
Website: www.cotansw.com.au
Email: info@cotansw.com.au*