



District 201 N5

LIONS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE PARK INC.  
P O Box C20  
Werrington County NSW 2747

President  
Carol Alders  
(02) 47322 5  
Fax: (02) 22

Secretary  
Ken Mason  
(02) 9673 42

Supp. Subm. to  
Exh. 62  
DWP Inquiry

26th July 1999

Mr Paul McMahon  
Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education  
and Workplace Relations  
Suite R1 116 Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

Our Club wishes to take up the offer made by Dr Nelson, at our appearance before the Committee on the 15th July, to tender additional information.

Our President, Alan Moran visited the Penrith office of Centrelink seeking financial assistance of \$140.00 to cover the cost of training to obtain additional qualifications to assist in obtaining employment. Centrelink do not now provide this assistance.

On accessing Mr Moran's file on the computer the customer service officer informed him that he was not eligible to any assistance from job network services. The officer could not initially explain or was able to find out why he had been categorised as "ineligible for assistance".

It transpired that his recent access to the "Senior Health Card" placed him in this category. A fact that neither he or the Centrelink officer was aware. This ineligibility seems to be in conflict with the criteria which allows seniors health card holders to earn up to \$67,000 per couple per annum. A copy of the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card Guide to Concessions is attached. Mr Moran believes he, and we suspect others in a similar situation, are the victims of discrimination.

Mr Moran subsequently requested and has obtained a print-out of the "eligibility table" for access to "job network services" which we have attached for your information. Our purpose in drawing this matter to the attention of the Committee is done so on the basis that this information on "jobseeker eligibility for various levels of employment assistance" may not be made readily available to persons over 45 years of age seeking to re-enter the workforce with the assistance of Centrelink, and at the same time not readily understood by their customer service adviser/s.

cont. page2.

Meetings held 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7.30 pm.

Henry Lawson Club, Cnr Henry Lawson Ave and Dunheved Rd Werrington

More importantly, we believe that the Committee would be greatly concerned at the question of a persons eligibility being determined on their age, which is discriminatory, and therefore in conflict with both Commonwealth and State legislation on discrimination.

Our Club would respectfully suggest that the issue of eligibility criteria to "various levels of employment assistance" be examined, particularly in respect to persons in the mature or over 45 years of age category. Similarly, that the issue of age discrimination be examined in the context that there is the potential for conflict between a persons eligibility or entitlement to seek employment assistance from the Commonwealth Government, and their entitlement to other Commonwealth Government support and/or assistance completely unrelated to employment.

**Please note:** Our Club is basing its argument in the context that employment assistance is a bigger and more complex issue for mature aged workers getting back into the workforce than purely financial assistance. What is of more concern is that if Centrelink categorises persons as being either eligible or ineligible for employment assistance, is the information then handed on, or in some way accessible to either Employment National or Job Network service providers.

**Could you please advise whether our Club will be supplied with a copy of the report after it has been tabled in parliament?**

Yours faithfully,



Ken Mason  
Secretary.

Encl.

**5.5 - Task Card #1 - Job Network Services - Eligibility Table**

This table shows jobseeker eligibility for various levels of employment assistance.

Jobseekers who are 'Job Network Eligible' are eligible for Job Matching, and may also qualify for Job Search Training and Intensive Assistance if they also meet the qualifying criteria for that assistance.

Code	Jobseeker Circumstances	Job Network Eligible	JMO Eligible	NEIS Eligible	Care Givers RTWF	Client Department
BVA	Bereavement Allowance (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
CAR	Carer Payment (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	NO	NO	FaCS
DSB	Disability Blind (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
DSP	Disability Support Pension (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
MPA	Mature Age Partner Allowance	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
NSA	Newstart Allowance	YES	NO	YES	NO	FaCS
PPP	Benefit Parenting Payment Partnered	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
PPS	Parenting Payment Single	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
PTA	Partner Allowance	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
SKA	Sickness Allowance	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
SPL	Special Benefit	YES	YES**	YES	YES**	FaCS
WDA	Widow Allowance(< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
WFA	Wife Pension Age (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
WFD	Wife Pension Disability (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
WID	Widows B Pension (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
YAL	Youth Allowance (unemployed)	YES	NO	YES	NO	FaCS
AGE	Age Pension	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
AUS	Austudy	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
CCA	Child Care Assistance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
CDA	Child Disability Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
DOP	Double Orphan Pension	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
DRP	Drought Relief Payment	NO	YES	NO	YES	DAFF
EMG	Emergency Disaster Relief	NO	YES	NO	NO	FaCS
FFR	Farm Family Restart	NO	YES	NO	YES	DAFF
FHS	Farm Household Support	NO	YES	NO	YES	DAFF
FPA	Family Payment	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
LIC	Low Income Card	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
MAA	Mature Age Allowance	NO	NO	NO	No	FaCS
MAT	Maternity Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
MOB	Mobility Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
NMA	Newstart Mature Age Allowance	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
PPP	non-benefit Parenting Payment Partnered	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
RCA	Residential Care Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
RHB	Rehabilitation Allowance	NO	YES	NO	NO	FaCS
SHC	Senior Health Card	NO	NO	NO	YES	FaCS
YAL	Youth Allowance (full time student)	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
	Youth Disability Supplement	NO	NO	NO	YES	FaCS

**Job Network User Guide - current as at 28/4/99**

People >60 years receiving FaCS Income support payments	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
Service Pension	NO	YES	NO	YES	DVA
Disability Pension	NO	YES	NO	YES	DVA
ABSTUDY	NO	NO	NO	YES	DETYA
Assistance for Isolated Children	NO	NO	NO	YES	DETYA
Migrants in the 2 year waiting period	NO	YES	NO	NO	N/A
Non-permanent residents	NO*	NO	NO*	NO	N/A
People receiving workers compensation	NO	YES	NO	YES	N/A
Jobseekers ineligible for income support because of income/partner income	NO	YES	NO	YES	N/A
Full time students not receiving income support	NO	NO	NO	YES	N/A
Overseas visitors WITH working visas	NO	NO	NO	NO	N/A
Overseas visitors WITHOUT working visas	NO	NO	NO	NO	N/A

\* Unless they are receiving Special Benefit

\*\* Unless they are receiving Special Benefit under Newstart conditions (activity tested)

**5.5 - Task Card #1 - Job Network Services - Eligibility Table**

This table shows jobseeker eligibility for various levels of employment assistance.

Jobseekers who are 'Job Network Eligible' are eligible for Job Matching, and may also qualify for Job Search Training and Intensive Assistance if they also meet the qualifying criteria for that assistance.

Code	Jobseeker Circumstances	Job Network Eligible	JMO Eligible	NEIS Eligible	Care Givers RTWF	Client Department
BVA	Bereavement Allowance (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
CAR	Carer Payment (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	NO	NO	FaCS
DSB	Disability Blind (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
DSP	Disability Support Pension (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
MPA	Mature Age Partner Allowance	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
NSA	Newstart Allowance	YES	NO	YES	NO	FaCS
PPP	Benefit Parenting Payment Partnered	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
PPS	Parenting Payment Single	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
PTA	Partner Allowance	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
SKA	Sickness Allowance	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
SPL	Special Benefit	YES	YES**	YES	YES**	FaCS
WDA	Widow Allowance(< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
WFA	Wife Pension Age (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
WFD	Wife Pension Disability (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
WID	Widows B Pension (< 60 yrs)	YES	YES	YES	NO	FaCS
YAL	Youth Allowance (unemployed)	YES	NO	YES	NO	FaCS
AGE	Age Pension	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
AUS	Austudy	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
CCA	Child Care Assistance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
CDA	Child Disability Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
DOP	Double Orphan Pension	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
DRP	Drought Relief Payment	NO	YES	NO	YES	DAFF
EMG	Emergency Disaster Relief	NO	YES	NO	NO	FaCS
FFR	Farm Family Restart	NO	YES	NO	YES	DAFF
FHS	Farm Household Support	NO	YES	NO	YES	DAFF
FPA	Family Payment	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
LIC	Low Income Card	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
MAA	Mature Age Allowance	NO	NO	NO	No	FaCS
MAT	Maternity Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
MOB	Mobility Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
NMA	Newstart Mature Age Allowance	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
PPP	non-benefit Parenting Payment Partnered	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
RCA	Residential Care Allowance	NO	YES	NO	YES	FaCS
RHB	Rehabilitation Allowance	NO	YES	NO	NO	FaCS
SHC	Senior Health Card	NO	NO	NO	YES	FaCS
YAL	Youth Allowance (full time student)	NO	NO	NO	NO	FaCS
	Youth Disability Supplement	NO	NO	NO	YES	FaCS