

35 Weldon Street
Burwood NSW 2134
6th July 1999

Re inquiry into issues specific to workers over 45 years of age seeking employment, or establishing a business, following unemployment.

Recently I read in the Sydney Morning Herald that you were looking into the employment possibilities of those aged between 55 and 65 and the Dr Brendan Nelson was also on the committee.

This is an under-represented small group perhaps, but one whose needs are very, very great.

I write to you now because I have a younger brother aged 61 years who has been badly affected by the impossibility of getting a suitable part-time or temporary job to tide him over these years.

He was a mechanical draughtsman, who has not had any work since September 1998, as his line of work has simply dried up. He is computer literate, having done courses in auto-cad, and later real estate, but nothing has helped.

He is fast losing any self confidence he had, because of the newspaper job insistence on youth, experience, etc. Even employment agencies as run on Govt. guidelines put his name on their lists, but they are not interested in his age-group, because the younger people naturally invoke the most business.

How does he keep his self-respect, and pay for his expensive eye-drops to keep his glaucoma under control? Apart from this genetic disorder, he is trim, fit and well, and feels he can work if only given the chance. He has never ever been on the 'dole', and cannot now get even a pharmaceutical card because his wife works!

Please do something to help the likes of him. There must be many responsible men lie him in this situation.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Beryl T. Mitchell