

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS**

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**INQUIRY INTO ISSUES SPECIFIC TO WORKERS OVER 45 SEEKING
EMPLOYMENT, OR ESTABLISHING A *BUSINESS* FOLLOWING
UNEMPLOYMENT**

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 1999 requesting comments from this Department on the proposals put to the Committee for addressing some of *the* issues raised in the Inquiry into issues specific to workers over 45.

I am attaching comments relating to proposals 14 and 15, which relate to programmes which are the responsibility of this Department.

I trust the Committee will find &c comments useful. I apologise that we were not able to meet your deadline due to staff availability over the Christmas leave period.

Yours sincerely

Colin Walters
First Assistant Secretary
Training and Youth Division
2 February 2000

ATTACHMENT A

COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS RAISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

Proposal 14 - Extend apprenticeships/traineeships to mature-age unemployed so they may be reskilled in relevant areas to meet current/future labour market needs.

The proposal appears to assume that the New Apprenticeships programme has age restrictions. I am pleased to inform the Committee that this is not the case. Indeed, the statistics confirm that more people of mature years are taking advantage of the programme. We can supply detailed statistics if the committee would find them helpful.

Proposal 15 – Additional funding for personal counselling for retrenched mature-age workers and their families.

There is an existing programme for this purpose. The DETYA Career Counselling Programme delivered through Centrelink can and does assist retrenched older workers when they are registered with Centrelink as job seekers.

Job seekers registered with Centrelink may access the DETYA Career Counselling programme at no cost at any time in their period of unemployment. There are over 100 locations around the country, with c~ counselling offered in group or individual sessions by well qualified counsellors.

The Career Counselling service is provided by CRS Australia.

The programme will be evaluated early in 2000.