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----- Copy of your comments -----

Name: Mr Richard A. Greenwood

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Subject: Men have become third kind citizens in their own country?

Comment: The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mister Rudd,

Today I received another two standard letters from Relationships Australia S.A. -- for two more jobs I applied since last contacted you -- stating that I have been unsuccessful in my applications for positions in counselling and mediation.

I have continuously applied to every single job advertised in SA in the fields of Counselling and Mediation since 2004. I used to work in the computer industry but a number of factors caused me to fall behind in that fast moving industry and then after being retrenched in 2000 and being aware that most computer jobs were being exported to Asia, I decided on a career change into human services. The fact is that today, I am still in the Centrelink and the Job Network unemployed list and under constant pressure to find a job.

I have received all sorts of advice and help in preparing my applications and CVs and many people say that they are quite good.

Every one I talk to say that with my qualifications it is incredible that I am still unemployed after four years of searching. In summary my qualifications include:

2004	Master of Conflict Management University of S.A.
2003	Graduate Certificate in Family Mediation University of S.A.
2002	Community Mediation training Southern Community Justice
2000	Graduate Certificate in Family Therapy University of S.A.
1994	Diploma in Education Flinders University of S.A.
1991-3	Bachelor of Arts (Communications) University of S. A.

I have noticed it myself, and other people have commented on the fact that even 50% of the clients -- to organisations like Relationships Australia and the Government funded Relationships Centres -- are male, the ratio of females to males in the staff is about 9 to 1. I have seen this myself. At the place where I did my placement in 2006 there were 11 women and 1 man in the counselling area, 6 women and a part time man in the mediation area. In another place where I worked as a volunteer, there were 14 women and 1 man. Why is that?

Most women - if not all – would say that if they have a relationship problem they will not talk to a man about it, they would demand to talk to a woman. Why then men who are having trouble in their relationships are forced to go and talk to counsellors and mediators who are all female? Then we wonder why men get crazy enough to kill their ex-wives and children and / or kill themselves. The suicide statistics will show the very high number of men killing themselves although nobody is keeping track of how many of them do it because of domestic disputes, divorce, separation, false allegations of abuse, and severe limitations to see their own children.

The appalling ratio of women / men working in counselling, mediation can be easily verified by phoning any of these organisations and ask how many men and how many women work there. You can also look at the phone book and see the number of organisations offering exclusive support services to women compared to men.

On the looks of it I would say that there is a gross anti-male bias in the staff that select workers for these places and that explains in my view why a 60 year old male with lots of life experience, academic qualifications and the ambition of being helpful to society cannot find employment in this area and as a result have been forced by the Job Network to perform physically hard jobs as vacuum cleaning houses and car park attendant tasks.

In the last year, I have been doing “voluntary work” sometimes in areas completely unrelated to my qualifications, which I consider a complete waste of my life. The alternative been to go and do the cleaning jobs that the Job Network forced me to do as has occurred in the past.

Am I the wrong sex and the wrong age to find a job in Human Services?

I have been told that my situation is common for older males all over Australia. Is this right?

Men have become third kind citizens in their own country?

Women should also worry about this after all it is their sons, brothers and other relatives who are going to suffer the effects of this “political correct” bias against men in education, health, employment, etc.

Richard A. Greenwood
May 20, 2008
