



Online submission					
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<b>Age</b>	74	<b>Gender</b>	Female	<b>State</b>	VIC
<b>Occupation (if available)</b>	Retired				
<b>Text of submission</b>	<p>I heard about this inquiry on the ABC's "Life Matters" and have long wanted a place to put some views on the matter re the appalling life situation that young people- country boys close to me- have found themselves in since leaving school without having completed Year 12.</p> <p>I think they are representative of the wider problems in the Education and Work force. These are no private school boys- just your country high school types- not really expected to excel by society at large and no longer, as it was when I was young, imbued with the notion that having an education is the way out of the working class.</p> <p>The younger, now age 22, left school suddenly at the end of Year 11 after a year of acute illness requiring an operation followed by Glandular Fever. I suggest he became quite depressed, was allowed to leave school with virtually no follow up whatsoever and, though able to live with his parents, sunk into the addictive world of computer gaming-sleeping all day and up all night. Parents were supportive, unwilling to put him on the streets but unable to shift him. He had an occasional job for a few days.</p> <p>This boy has a good brain and while, in hindsight, he may well have been better off to have left school earlier perhaps to do an apprenticeship- smart boys like him at about 15 see the current VCAL as being for the dumbies- the no-hoppers. The depression and computer gaming addiction went on for about 2 or 3 years- until finally only this year, Centrelink finally classed him as Long Term unemployed and gave him the ultimatum of a job or a course by the end of the month. This boy should have been followed up right from the start- much more rigorously, with empathy and considerable real thought.</p> <p>However now he is likely to find himself in a similar situation as was his brother. The course he is doing is supposed to feed into an apprenticeship or some work in the field of 'Green Electrician'. If he were to go that route-where is the apprenticeship or the job? He will be too fragile still to go to W.A. and get a Mining job-the supposed panacea. He does not like living in the city either. Where will be the follow-up to encourage him? Families can only do so much for young</p>				

men of this age.

This boy should be encouraged AND financed to go on to do a University Course. He is bored witless with the level of, say the Maths, he has been studying. Of course even having a University degree these days is no sure way of finding a secure job but there is a little more hope- maybe with a degree you might get at least a 6 month contract as teacher's do.

Investment in a proper Education should be the number one priority. Gough Whitlam was lambasted for bring in the NEAT Scheme that sent middle class women (the supposed 'doctor's wives') back to school and University. I was not the wife of a doctor but was one of the few who was given the benefit of that scheme. And I then paid taxes for the next 30 years or more- until just a couple of months back in fact! I also benefitted when young from a studentship to become a teacher. Where are the studentships now and the scholarships for country kids?

The second boy- now aged 24, left school even earlier. After, some bad starts and short term jobs coming out of Centrelink job schemes, but, with more of a capacity for physical work he finally got the Work Ethic.

So what happens? These young people cannot have any hope of finding a secure job. At a young age they are 'sub-contractors'□, have to get an ABN- no holiday pay, no sick leave- not even the certainty of having a job tomorrow, let alone next week. If the sub-contractor' above them does not get paid nor do they. They must find their way round the system of Labour Hire Companies and prior to being able to do even the most menial job must take the time off working, complete AND pay for some sort of 'certificate'- for almost anything- be it first aid- one to hold a lolly-pop stick at a school crossing- be a spotter- get on a roof- be a builder's labourer- drive a front end loader- a truck (if you are so lucky) or one of the other usually low paid jobs that are available- but at least some sort of a job.

Yes this older one has learned about the Union that offers some courses for free. Would he join a Union? That costs money and he thinks it could even go against him if he belonged to a Union. And to find a job where it is primarily Union members who are employed- is like gold!

How can this young man earn enough money to even pay for the certificates required let alone pay rent and buy food- or pay for the upkeep of an old car (and the road tolls) that are essential for these jobs scattered all over the city? How can he better himself? He also has a good brain- it is being underused.

How can they ever get a bank loan or become lease holders? They have no secure income. If the government want to know what lies behind the Occupy movement or the general level of insecurity that the whole society feels then this job insecurity- the so-called 'flexibility'- that only

	<p>suits the owners of companies, is at the base of it.</p> <p>And yes- I understand the business world and the situation they are in competing in the global market- having a family member who has built a section of his business in India and Thailand because of the low cost of labour there. But we should NOT be aspiring to lowering the living standards of our workers to those in third world countries. They are aspiring to come up to ours.</p> <p>I don't know the answers but we should not be allowing our working people (and those who cannot find work) take the brunt of the hardship- most particularly when the divide between the extremely wealthy and the working poor is ever widening in our country.</p>
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*This submission was received online at the Inquiry's web site:*

<http://securejobs.org.au/independent-inquiry-into-insecure-work-in-australia/>

*Certain information, including full contact details, have been withheld to respect the privacy of the submitter. Further details about the publication of submissions and a privacy statement are available at the website.*