



Online submission					
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<b>Age</b>	48	<b>Gender</b>	Female	<b>State</b>	QLD
<b>Occupation (if available)</b>	Teacher				
<b>Text of submission</b>	<p>I am a divorced single mother of two teenage daughters, aged 48. I emigrated to Australia at the end of 2006 from the UK, where I had trained, qualified and worked as a primary school teacher. I have good references and assumed I would be able to find a permanent teaching job within 6 months. I was surprised to learn that I would only be granted provisional registration until I had completed 100 hours teaching in Queensland schools. So I began supply teaching at schools within my area and eventually gained full registration. Many of the teachers at schools I worked at were on 1 year contracts and I realised that it would not be simple to gain permanent status. Although supply teaching does have benefits in terms of flexibility to fit in with family life, it is not as well paid as assumed because there are 3 months of the year where I have no income because of school holidays and often it is longer than that because you tend to get little work at the beginning and end of every term. Supply teachers are also often called in to cover for teacher who are off on stress leave or unwell because they have classes with high needs and this can be hard to cope with when you are in different schools trying to teach children who will play up for a teacher they don't know. I have done some 1 term contracts however often this has meant working 10 hours a day during the working week and sometimes going in to school at weekends to keep on top of things (especially during report writing, Y2 net validation etc) and yet as a temporary teacher I am only paid for 25 hours a week with no guarantee of holiday pay or even work the following term. This has a big impact on family life and stress levels. I am a member of the QTU and was pleased when they campaigned to get some pro-rata holiday pay for supply and temporary teachers. As a supply teacher you miss out on training courses which are supplied to permanent teachers without them having to pay course fees and they are paid to attend as well. It is hard to develop professionally if you have to find courses, take a day off paid employment to attend them and possibly pay for them yourself. Consequently I am still doing casual teaching 5 years after arriving in Australia, I am still renting because my income is erratic and I have started another casual job at the post office in order to have some regular reliable income where I know which days I am working. This seems a waste of my training and means I am unlikely to be able to improve my own situation until my children finish school. As I am not getting any younger and missing out on professional development I think my days as a teacher are numbered. I am careful with what I do earn and pay all bills on due dates. I receive family tax benefit but not rent assistance or any other benefit. I have not taken a holiday away in 5</p>				

	<p>years. I had hoped to have some security in terms of job and home after half a decade in Australia but I feel this is less likely as I get older and I have genuine concerns for my own welfare for the future. Younger, newly qualified, cheap graduates seem to get the available contracts so I have had to realise that I will have to accept supply work where I can get it and supplement my income with casual post office work during holidays. Having lived and worked in 5 countries, Australia has been the hardest in which to find permanent work.</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.*