



INDEPENDENT
INQUIRY into
Insecure Work

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Online submission					
First name	Anonymous		Surname		
Age	51-60	Gender	Male	State	Regional VIC
Occupation (if available)	Information Technology				
Text of submission	<p>As I approach retirement age I find my working life has been reduced somewhat and the current option of contracting out in IT has some real problems.</p> <p>Firstly the benefits though:</p> <p>I have variety in my jobs. Contracts are usually over a set project so one week I might be installing new PCs at the Royal Children's Hospital and the next rolling out Windows 7 at a corporate site.</p> <p>I can elect not to pick up a job if it offends my morals like a tobacco company or a gambling venture.</p> <p>I sometimes get to choose between jobs if things are a bit busy in the market.</p> <p>But sadly the downsides far outweigh the positives. Some of the issues are:</p> <p>No Union protection.</p> <p>Low rewards for what is actually very insecure work</p> <p>You tend to work above your pay grade with little chance of being financial rewarded for extra efforts.</p> <p>No Sick leave</p> <p>No Annual Leave</p>				

	<p>No Long Service Leave</p> <p>No protection against unfair dismissal</p> <p>No guarantee that the company you are working for will pay your wages when there is a name change or they are sold off to a different owner.</p> <p>Sometimes long delays on payments. (A 3 month delay is my worst so far but expecting to be duded, I was pleased to actually get paid on that job.)</p> <p>As you can see somehow we have moved from a society that had safeguards built in to protect its workers to an environment where it is pretty much dog eat dog. If you reject a job because the wage is too low you can find yourself replaced by a Team of Koreans employed on a work Visa that completely undermines the wage structure. (I have seen this happen).</p> <p>Ill health is an immediate problem both for yourself and the employer. If you don't work you don't get paid so you have to work even when you are infectious. The result, of course, is that something like the Flu is going to impact the whole staff. I wonder if this last season's long duration flu is a direct result of the new processes.</p> <p>This is especially problematical for the aging workforce. If you are not in tip top health then you are left on the shelf which automatically adds more stress to your life. A situation that can be difficult to extract oneself from.</p> <p>I know we reached this point by adding flexibility to the employment market, but somewhere along the way we managed to create a 'working poor' who are no longer supported by Business, are under employed, and have no way back to a protected working environment.</p> <p>Time to invent a Safety Net.</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.