



Online submission					
<b>First name</b>	Jennifer	<b>Surname</b>	Marsh		
<b>Age</b>	38	<b>Gender</b>	Female	<b>State</b>	QLD
<b>Occupation (if available)</b>	Teacher				
<b>Text of submission</b>	<p>I went to university to gain a teaching qualification in special education at the age of 33. I did this as I needed a steady job with a steady income to have any sort of stability and financial security.</p> <p>I was employed to work at a high school not long after completing my degree. I was given a 6 month contract which I completed. Towards the end of that period, I became very anxious as I did not know what my future held. I was re-employed - another 6 month contract.</p> <p>At the end of this period, the start of the Christmas holidays, two of my teaching colleagues did not get contracts for the following year. I was fortunate enough to get one but it was for 1 term and in another (unfamiliar) environment.</p> <p>Again, at the end of the contract, I was very anxious and having to basically ask multiple heads of departments what my future held. This was awkward, pride-swallowing and, at times, embarrassing. I got a contract but only until the end of the year.</p> <p>So, here I am at the end of another contract. I have been told that I have a job for next year but have seen nothing in writing. I have a mortgage to pay, Christmas holidays to pay for and the usual bills to pay. I am just glad that I don't have children to worry about paying for.</p> <p>This is my story so far. I have been told I will be permanent soon but, until I see it in writing, I will remain anxious, save as much money as I can and keep looking in the classifieds for other jobs just in case I don't get another contract or permanency. I don't believe that a 38 year old woman who made the choice to go to uni to work in a tough job in 21st Century Australia should be made to feel like this.</p>				

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