



Online submission					
First name	Mary	Surname	Forrest		
Age	51-60	Gender	Female	State	NSW
Occupation (if available)	Administration assistant				
Text of submission	<p>My name is Mary Forrest and I live down the south coast with my husband and son. We built our house and moved down here in 1993.</p> <p>I started working for the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) in November 1994 as a casual School Administration Officer (SAO) and worked almost full time at the same school until 2003. In that time transfers came and went. I did manage to get some interviews for permanency but unfortunately always just missed out.</p> <p>I had brought up an issue with my School Administration Manager (SAM) and from 2003 I had very little work with DEC. I became very depressed and finding employment became even harder. It also affected our family life severely. We struggled to pay the mortgage and bills and had to use credit. Not a very good position to be in. Even though my husband has full time work now, his wages are still not enough for us to survive. I need and want to be working in a permanent job as well.</p> <p>From 2009 -2011 I managed to get substantial hours working with DEC and it had definitely made our lives happier. I worked in one school mostly and thoroughly enjoyed it. My skills as a SAO were rebuilding and so was my confidence. I attended 3 courses in 2011 to improve my skills as a SAO. We went on a long awaited holiday, and as I was on a temporary contract I was able to use my long service leave. We did some maintenance on our house, but it still needs more, and we even had money to buy a new fridge after 26 years. Yes, the last 3 years have been great, but still no security in my employment to plan anything big.</p> <p>3 weeks before Christmas I was told a transfer had applied and I would be out of work. I applied to all the schools in the area. I did manage to get some work. However, I am dropping my hours from 5 days per week to 3 days per fortnight and I have to travel further.</p> <p>As my husband and I are over 50 and we have struggled with employment on the south coast for many, many years we have very little super. We both need to have full time employment so we can build up</p>				

	<p>our super. Every time I am unemployed my super gets chewed up by Administration fees. I feel that we will become a burden on the community and have no quality of life if I can't get permanency.</p> <p>How long do I have to wait before I can be permanent and how can this happen if I don't have continuity? I don't wish to wait until I'm ready to retire to have a permanent position.</p> <p>Note: Many years ago I worked for Social Security (Centrelink) and Medibank. In both jobs I was made permanent after a probationary period.</p> <p>I am a member of the PSA, that's how I found out about this enquiry.</p>
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<http://securejobs.org.au/independent-inquiry-into-insecure-work-in-australia/>

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