



INDEPENDENT
INQUIRY into
Insecure Work

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Online submission					
First name	Robyn		Surname	Reynolds	
Age	31-40	Gender	Female	State	VIC
Occupation (if available)	Casual teacher				
Text of submission	<p>Hi, I am a mid-30's female living in a share house. I recently started up my own business in natural therapies as this is the only option for my modality at the moment.</p> <p>My main source of income comes from Casual Relief Teaching (CRT) and I am a member of the AEU. CRT teachers are vital to the running of schools as we are the ones who get called up to come in when, for example, a regular teacher calls up sick.</p> <p>As I am in the state of Victoria, I must either go through an agency which takes a portion of the daily rate, or direct to schools and sign individual employment contracts with each one. That also means there is no coordination between the individual schools I service and I am continually mindful that if I become annoying to a particular school they have the choice to call someone else rather than me. Every work day at a new school is literally like being at a job interview which is not the best condition for getting on with teaching and managing students who would otherwise be unsupervised or split and crammed into other classes.</p> <p>In Victoria our daily rate is the lowest in Australia and has not kept up with other pay increases even in Victoria. It is not actually a true casual rate as it doesn't effectively factor in enough to cover school holidays or my own illness. I suppose it would be an option to look for full time work in the holidays, hence making CRTs eligible for Centrelink Newstart Allowance to fill the gaps. Currently I would be better off if I was a part time teacher even on 2 days per week as the daily CRT rate just doesn't make up for the financial insecurity of this vital role.</p>				

	<p>Often I receive the call for work in the morning, usually around 7:30am. At this time of year there is not much work so I am taking any days that I can get. The income I get fluctuates greatly which sometimes suits but at the moment I am not able to make ends meet, and what I earned during high demand times was not enough to see me through. At this point I will be looking for employment outside of the education sector because of course with school holidays coming up I will not be able to earn any money through teaching. My natural therapies business does not currently bring in enough money to support me and from what I hear it is likely to take another 2 years to grow to that.</p> <p>Thanks for reading my story.</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.