



Online submission					
First name	Sarah		Surname	Redshaw	
Age	53	Gender	Female	State	NSW
Occupation (if available)	University lecturer/tutor/researcher				
Text of submission	<p>My whole career has been somewhat temporary in the world of academic teaching and research. I have taught for universities for most of my life and gained research grants but always fallen short of a real go.</p> <p>Many of my contracts have been part-time and even when they were full-time they have been for five months at a time so for many years I have had no pay over December, January and often February.</p> <p>I would find work doing anything from stuffing envelopes to mowing lawns in that time.</p> <p>When I did manage to win a research grant which gave me a three year position as a postdoctoral fellow the full-time academics on the project spent so much energy claiming credit for the project and discrediting me I had nothing to go on with when that contract ended. Feeling thoroughly demoralized I tried to gain other fellowships but was not successful particularly with no institutional support.</p> <p>I had worked with the institution for 10 years on different contracts but because there were breaks and there was no recognition of service I got nothing when my contract was over. Not even a bit of support as a researcher to take my work elsewhere.</p> <p>I spent two years doing scraps of part-time research and wrote my book based on my seven years research on part-time and full-time contracts. I also published a number of journal articles. Then got a contract for six months as a senior researcher at a hospital research unit for two days a week. I was then given a contract for 14 months at four days a week and that was renewed another two years. Now I have been told my contract will not be renewed and I have been temporary exempt so am entitled to no severance pay after nearly four years.</p> <p>I have been applying for jobs for the last two years and have not managed to secure one. I completed a graduate certificate in the hopes of staying in the area of work and it remains to be seen whether that will help me secure a position. I think my confidence has been lacking and I have never managed to find people who would really get behind me nor have I been able to be aggressive enough in pursuing academic positions.</p>				

	<p>It has been difficult to work out what else I could do and though I have applied for many different positions in and out of academia I have never landed a decent one where I could develop a career. There are a lot of practices in the workplace that make it difficult including being undermined and bullied because my work is good. I am 53 and have BA(Hons) and MA(Hons) degrees, a PhD and now a Grad Cert. you'd think it would be possible! Still hoping.</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.