



Online submission					
First name	Steve		Surname	Olive	
Age	41-50	Gender	Male	State	Regional NSW
Occupation (if available)	TAFE teacher				
Text of submission	<p>After being discharged medically unfit from the Australian Army in 1993 (the surgeon stuffed the operation on my back) I was employed in numerous occupations until 1998. With a wife & 2 daughters the Army pension was totally inadequate.</p> <p>I aggravated my back again in 1998 and as part of my DVA TPI classification I had to do rehab. I started a TAFE IT course in 1999 because I had been using computers in some of the jobs.</p> <p>In 2000, whilst continuing my studies in Diploma of IT, I started teaching part-time for TAFE within Bathurst Correctional Centre because I had completed my Cert III & Cert IV IT and the Head Teacher said, "you must have been teaching people in the Army" (which was true). I did try a full-time position for about 12 months (around 2004/2005) but could not complete the required BVET by distance education due to not being able to work full-time and study as well.</p> <p>I was employed as a Computer Systems Officer P/T seasonal (20 hours per week) by the section because I had been looking after the Arts & IT computer network on top of the teaching & studying. I designed, configured & installed the network and still manage the network today. I'm still employed casually, from year to year for 40 weeks of the year. No school holiday employment means no pay, so Christmas & January isn't a good time of year money wise.</p> <p>I continue teaching part-time casual, usually starting on about 9 hours per week in Terms 1 & 3 but this fades away to around 5½ hours per week in Terms 2 & 4. We don't know how much teaching we will have until the week before teaching commences and our hours can be cut at any time because students drop out of courses. There is no guarantee of hours from term-to-term, let alone semester-to-semester or year-to-year. This applies to all part-time casual teachers in the section, who make up all but 2 positions of the 14 regular teachers (and 1 of the full-time staff has been on LWOP this year).</p>				

	<p>Unfortunately my wife passed away nearly 4 years ago, so I'm a single father with 2 teenage daughters on a very irregular income which makes planning holidays and paying for the things kids expect these days a bit hard. Luckily, because of my disability, my DVA TPI pension gets restored (retrospectively) when I don't work for 2 weeks so things aren't as bad as they could be when school holidays occur.</p> <p>Being a disabled pensioner, with 2 part-time casual jobs makes getting loans for things like cars difficult. I usually have to lie a bit to convince the finance companies that I can afford the loans.</p> <p>All of this means I end up with about \$50,000 - \$60,000 before tax each year, so I struggle with massive increases in electricity & gas bills every quarter. The prospects of yet more increases due to a Carbon Tax fills me with dread because I don't know how I will afford them. The Labor Government has finally reached the tax holy grail - taxing the air we breathe!</p> <p>After working in job on a regular basis for a set number of years (say 3 years at the most) the job should be made a permanent full-time job. TAFE Western would get around this by just sacking everyone before the 3 years is up. Upper management are only interested in lining their pockets and getting as many perks as they can. A casualised workforce saves massive amounts in holiday and sick leave entitlements. The worst aspect in TAFE is the 3 months a year where there are no superannuation contributions, so you just continually keep falling behind financially with no hope of having a reasonable retirement.</p>
--	---

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.