



Stuart's story

I started this job eight years ago as a casual workman and despite asking to be made permanent many times over the years, I'm still a casual.

It's pretty unfair because in our team half the members are casual, and the other half are permanent – but we all do the same job and work the same hours.

The permanent staff members get paid for public holidays, over Christmas when we close for two weeks, and if they miss a day because

they are sick or go to a funeral. They can take holidays and be paid, and they even have flexi-time and take an extra flexi day off each month.

The rest of us get none of that. I haven't had a holiday since I started working here. When I'm sick, I drag myself to work anyway. I can't afford the days off without getting paid.

I like my job, and the people I work with, but I just wish I had the same entitlements as the others in my team who do the same job as me. It doesn't seem fair that they get so many privileges while the rest of us are doing it so tough.

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Support rights for casuals

Casual jobs are growing and now make up about a quarter of the workforce.

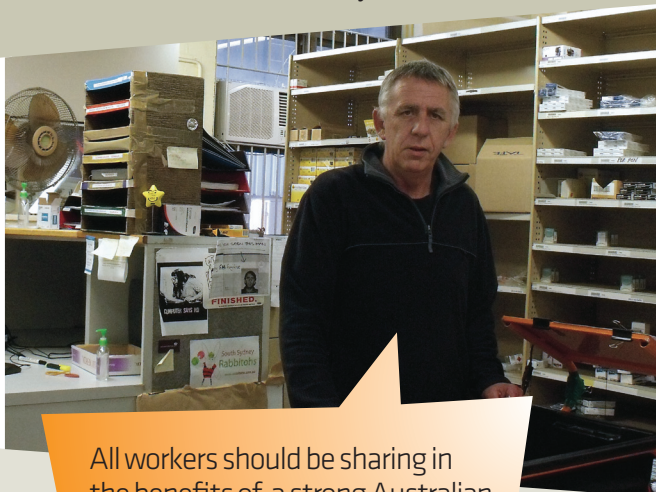
Casual workers usually have no paid leave entitlements, including sick leave, no guaranteed hours of work or certainty of income, and no job security.

Many casuals want to convert to permanent, but these arrangements can continue for years on end.

That might suit some people but it's really tough on working families who are trying to plan for their future. It's hard to get a home loan and hard to build a career.

Can't Australia be a place where workers can have jobs that they and their families can rely on?

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All workers should be sharing in the benefits of a strong Australian economy and should have the right to certainty in their working life.

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Photographs used throughout this report are file images and not of the workers quoted.
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