

Work

Getting a job, keeping a job, making sure it is a decent job and having enough to retire comfortably. In recent years these simple goals have become harder to fulfil.

Good jobs are hard to find because many of the new jobs being created are casual, low paid and with little security.

For people lucky enough to have full time work, many feel overworked, undervalued, and have difficulty balancing their work and family responsibilities.

Young people are finding it tough to get jobs with a future.

The Howard Government has made it harder for people to be represented by unions and is instead promoting individual contracts that can be used to undercut wages and conditions.

This year's Federal Election is your chance to stand up for job security, reasonable hours, training, decent wages and conditions, the right to be represented by unions, and a better balance between work and family life.

How the new world of work is impacting on Australian workers

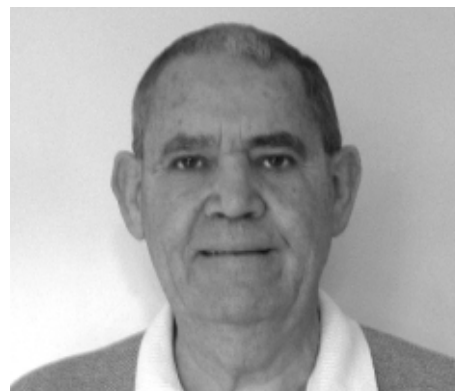


**RYAN THOMAS,
APPRENTICE PLUMBER**

I've landed on my feet and am doing a job I love, but feel sad for my mates who won't get the opportunities I've had. Many of them aren't high achievers academically, but they're great with their hands and would make excellent tradesmen, however they're becoming increasingly dispirited, believing they're never going to get a foot in the door.

**HELEN WALKER
UNIVERSITY LECTURER**

"Trying to balance casual work with young kids is really difficult. I can't reliably book childcare because I'm never sure what hours I'll be working next week. Getting support from your employer when you're casual and have caring responsibilities shouldn't be dependant on the goodwill of your manager."



**FRANK CLOHESY
MCG CROWD SUPERVISOR**

"I've been working at the MCG for 20 years, and I believe people that have put in their time deserve long service leave. There's no sick leave, no annual leave – surely after working for that long I should be entitled to something – it's only fair."

The changing face of work.

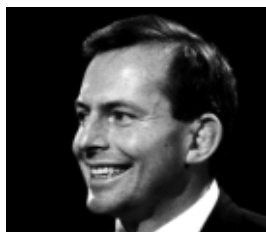
- 28% of Australian workers - 2.2 million people - are employed on a casual basis and have no paid sick leave or holiday leave.
- Australia has the second longest working hours in the OECD. There are almost 1 million people regularly working overtime and not being paid for it.
- In the next ten years there will be a national shortage of 250,000 traditional trades apprentices and yet the Howard Government has allowed the training of apprentices to decline by 15% since 1987.
- Two thirds of the jobs created since 1996 pay less than \$600 per week.

THE LIBERAL PARTY VISION OF WORK

Peter Costello – *'There's going to be no such thing as full-time retirement.'*



Tony Abbott – *'Most of us would accept that a bad boss is a little bit like a bad father or a bad husband. Notwithstanding all his faults, you tend to find he does more good than harm.'*



Photos courtesy of the National Library of Australia.

The future of Work

- Business surveys identify skills shortage as their number one concern yet the Howard Government in its \$52 billion budget did not spend one extra cent on vocational education and training.
- Labor has committed to improving opportunities for casuals employed on a long-term regular basis to convert to permanent employment
- Labor has also committed to restore the right of Australian workers to bargain collectively, to abolish individual contracts and to fully protect employee entitlements
- Sustained pressure from union members has led to both parties supporting some form of paid maternity leave scheme
- Union members earn about 15% more than non-members – or more than \$100 per week extra.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Find out more

about what the ACTU and unions are saying about work, family and financial security and the policies of political parties by visiting the ACTU website at www.actu.asn.au

Talk to your family,

friends and workmates. Make sure they are enrolled to vote, and encourage them to use their vote to improve job security and workplace rights.

Ask the candidates

in your electorate about their commitment to stopping the casualisation of jobs and promoting a better balance between work and family.

For more information

contact the ACTU Election Hotline on 1300 362 223 or visit the ACTU website – www.actu.asn.au

Make sure you are enrolled to vote in this year's Federal Election, by calling 13 23 36 or by visiting the website: www.aec.gov.au