Mature age jobseekers spend longer unemployed and on income support than younger jobseekers

Australians aged 45+ yrs were on Newstart in June 2015, an increase of over 93,000 since 2008.

The average duration that mature age jobseekers spend unemployed compared with 294 days for all jobseekers.

Mature age jobseekers are twice as likely to be managers, professionals, clerical or administrative workers.

With a lot of these agencies, I’m talking about people who are 20 years or 30 years younger than me. I just can’t get through to them what it’s like, especially when you’re in your 50s, because they’re so young, they think they’ve got it all...

“Basically they’d say to me, we’ve got blue collar jobs here. We have [tonnes] of dishwashers and supermarket packers. We don’t have anything for you.”

Sharon, 50, office manager

Employment services have an important role in supporting mature age jobseekers. However service delivery needs to take account of their distinct skills sets and experience.

White Collar Support Gap

Job Services

AGE AND EXPERIENCE OF FRONTLINE STAFF

1 in 4 frontline workers had no post-school qualifications in 2012

Only 1 in 5 had a degree level qualification

Compiled as part of an Australian Research Council-funded study on workforce vulnerabilities in mid-life and beyond.

The project is a collaboration between BSL, the University of Melbourne, Curtin University and the University of Canberra, in partnership with Jobs Australia.

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