

OFFICIAL

I've contributed to a few Productivity Commission (and other) inquiries and reviews and call-outs in the past, including lodging submissions and speaking at a public hearing in Canberra for the PC's inquiry on Mental Health.

Just an update to contribute please, re workplace harassment, bullying, mobbing, reporting, cover-ups and advocacy.

It's still happening.

I was in an ACT-based APS contract last year. My first foray back to work in several years after some of the examples I told the Commissioners. I was left sitting in the foyer for like 45 minutes on my first day, told to go home that afternoon and they'd call me when they were ready, so got paid 1 day out of 5 in the first week. The branch head and division head were on varying types of leave, then never returned. My boss went on holiday to Europe. It was sold as a policy role, which I'd clarified with the recruiters and panel to ensure it was, because I'd had two other offers and wanted to choose the best fit, but, then, even the Chief Executive said "We're not a policy agency" in a staff meeting. When he returned, my boss sent a Teams request for a one-on-one meeting, but said:

- you're in cruise mode
- you're not a performer, haven't seen that, and we're looking for high performers
- you're not interested in the work
- you're not giving insights
- you won't do data
- what value do you bring?
- we get to decide whether to end you
- we've been discussing it [Name A, Name B, Name C]
- but also, if you do apply elsewhere for other roles, what's your value proposition? Think about that. What value do you bring.

I reported it to the WHS and Conduct teams.

The recruiter/recruitment agency had several other contractors placed in the organisation and was wanting to secure more for more money, and said, according to the contract, they can finish it up in an hour (which another stunned contractor told me, that would only be for security or fraud etc reasons, where they'd need to walk you out of the building), and while throughout the contract (I'd regularly updated the recruiter on how bad it was seeming) they said they'd find something else, they didn't.

A few months later, that APS agency hit the front page of The Canberra Times, re Census results on its leadership and culture.

Meanwhile, since then, I've been 'stuck' below the poverty line in the welfare system, and, after a first investigation (the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)'s investigations team admitting the outsourced Employment Services Provider (ESP) was harassing and bullying me - how horribly ironic), first review, second investigation (where the Regional Manager from the ESP called me during it, having been told earlier by DEWR not to), and second review (which DEWR said they weren't progressing, because I hadn't identified what was incorrect, why, nor provided additional evidence), they (DEWR's investigations team, and one in the ESP) told me to get a medical certificate, the only way to pause the mutual obligations and get away from the hostile (word admitted by one in the ESP) treatment/accusations/threats etc (which I'd repeatedly asked them to stop, which they didn't, they even let it 'tip over' into issuing a formal warning and demerit).

None of this, is in any way, helping me.

It's wearing me down etc.

Total opposite of being confident to pitch myself for jobs, in being able to contribute, to reach my full potential, support myself, and feel in some way normal.

All levels of government and relevant departments should know about it, because of the ongoing advocacy. I've told them the lot needs to be externally and independently looked at. Bet they won't.

If there's all of these things : mental health, emotional health, physical health, overall wellbeing, everyone having the right to work, being able to support yourself, being treated with respect, equality, getting more women in the workforce, improving productivity, loneliness and isolation being like 15 cigarettes a day, cost of living etc etc : me being in the situation I am (and have been, remembering why I'm in this in the first place and the range and cumulative impacts its had) is awful!

I can't live like this!

So all of the above, along with my earlier input to the PC, is relevant.

They'll tell you "we take it seriously", won't they, which are easy and quick words to type.