



Dissenterlink

Dissenterlink Update

*Linking Social
Security Recipients*

DSS Shock At Lab Findings. Social Security Recipients Found To Be Human.

Centrelink and Social Security officials across Australia are said to be in a state of shock today after laboratory tests confirmed that social security recipients are actually fully fledged members of the human race.

Federal Party unemployed spokesperson Jocelyn Nukem released the following statement- "Following various scientific experiments on Work for the Dole members and Old Age Pensioners we have been forced to finally acknowledge that DSS clients are indeed members of *Homo Sapiens*. At first we could not believe the results, but after extensive blood testing and vivisection we are left with no choice.

Having, for so many years, treated the unemployed as a lower life form we are now going to have a bit of a rethink. Since we now know that they are capable of the same cunning and intelligence as the rest of us they are unlikely to continue to believe that it is them and not we politicians who are responsible for their situation. Who knows, now that we know that they are human, we might even start treating them as such."

Other officials for the Department confirmed that major restructuring was going on within the DSS. It is believed that a series of cruel and unusual punishments such as Dole Diaries, Job Clubs, Work For The Dole and Means Tests may be dropped in the coming weeks. Further cuts to the welfare budget may now be eliminated and a number of

case managers sacked. The rationale behind these changes is simple. As one official pointed out "Now that we know they are human we can't really expect them to continue to put up with being treated like cattle. The animal handlers and spies, oops I mean case managers and mobile officers, will have to go and who knows we may even have to start paying them a decent amount of compensation. After all it is our inability to create jobs that has left them without work."

Whilst these findings have turned the Social Security world upside down talk of testing on other sections of the population have been quashed by the Minister for Industrial Warfare, Peter Wreath. "There has been talk of testing to see whether we politicians are actually Reptilian Space Monsters, but I won't have a bar of that. Now excuse me, I have to go and eat some proles, I mean have my lunch."

Disclaimer- The above is actually a parody. There is no way politicians could be space monsters, is there?



NEWSFLASH- Centrelink's Leaked Literacy and Numeracy Test.

WE reproduce here, in full, the Government's new literacy/numeracy test for the young unemployed. This information comes courtesy of X an unemployed, illiterate young hacker who easily cracked the Government's ultrasecure database.

LITERACY SECTION:

- (1) What is a bludger?
- A bottom-feeding fish.
 - A tool for removing bludges.
 - An Enemy of the State.
- (2) What does the word "cool" mean?
- Moderately cold.
 - Dispassionate.
 - Aloof.
- (3) Mr Lazy and Mr Slow were having a picnic by the river. Along came Mr Mean and Mr Uppity, who beat the living tripe out of Mr Lazy and Mr Slow, then devoured their sandwiches. Mr Mean and Mr Uppity were:
- Showing initiative.
 - Responding to market forces.
 - Completely within their rights.
- (4) Wally can be found in the upper right-hand corner of page 4, between the goatherd and the Egyptian mummy. Now you know where Wally is, why don't you get off your fat backside and:
- Start looking for work.
 - Start a small business.
 - Join the Army Reserve.
- (5) Christmas is coming/The geese are getting fat/Please to put a penny/In the old man's hat. What is wrong about this old poem? How does it illustrate an archaic belief system?
- (6) Thomas is a really useful little engine.

Can you say the same thing about yourself? If not, why not?

(7) Supplementary question :

Longtemps je me suis couch de bonne heure ... This is the opening phrase of which classic novel? What is a madeleine? Describe in no less than 5000 words (extra paper provided).

NUMERACY SECTION.

- (1) Brad has six oranges and Stephanie has six apples. How many pieces of fruit do they have in total? After a 10 per cent GST is imposed on the fruit, are Brad and Stephanie:
- Grateful?
 - Awed?
 - Both?
- (2) Ten idle young citizens are sitting on the pavement. Three of them are arrested for vagrancy. Of the remaining young citizens, what percentage should:
- Get a haircut?
 - Set up a small business?
 - Return to New Zealand?
- (3) Stephanie's Gran has 10,000 Telstra shares. If the Government manages to overcome an obstructionist Senate and sell the remaining 50 per cent of Telstra, Stephanie's Gran will be
- Delighted?
 - Ecstatic?
 - Drooling?

(4) After an horrific industrial accident, Brad's dad retires on a full disability pension. One day Brad notices that his father still has movement in the right index finger. What percentage of Brad's Dad is not incapacitated? Should Brad turn Dad in to the authorities?

- Yes.
- Definitely.
- No question about it.

(5) Mr Howard is power-walking at a steady 6kmh from Nowhere to Kirribilli House, a distance of 10 kilometres. After giving Mr Howard a 10-minute head start, Mr Costello follows him, jogging at 10kmh. At what point in the journey will Mr Costello overtake Mr Howard? How long will it take Mr Howard to power-walk back to Nowhere?

(6) Can't you put two and two together? No. Work equals No Money, got it?

(7) Supplementary question :

The algorithm $(x,y) (x^2 - y^2 + A, 2xy + B)$ describes which notorious fractal set? Discuss, wittily. (Slide rule and compasses provided).

On completion of this exam, rise silently, salute the flag and exit in an orderly manner. Do not try to steal the stationery as you run the risk of a systematic body-cavity search. Thank you for attending.

From the Student Financial Advisors Network Mailing List.

The above is parody, there is no way the government would punish us for the failures of their education system is there?

Lies Of Our Times

1. "The unemployed have only themselves to blame"- We don't control the economy, politicians and big business do. They need large numbers of unemployed so that they can hold down wages. They are the ones that have changed the industrial relations laws so that we can be thrown out of work more easily. Their work for the "dole schemes" and "traineeships" create more unemployment and undercut conditions. They have all the power so they must take all the blame.
2. "The unemployed are bludgers who don't deserve the dole"-The dole is compensation for the system failing to provide us with worthwhile employment. We are not bludgers- surviving on the dole is a full time job! Previous generations fought for social security so that all Australians, regardless of their circumstances, would not have to suffer for being out of work. Successive governments have taken this worthy dream and turned it into a method of controlling us.
3. "The DSS and Centrelink are there to help the unemployed."- The welfare system could provide a guaranteed minimum income for all, but instead it is used as a way of keeping us busy and keeping us divided. The unemployed number somewhere between one and one and half million and the total number of people between 15 and 69 surviving without paid work is over 3.5 million. The government knows that if it got rid of welfare there would be riots in the streets. So despite the fact that there are no jobs available they keep us busy chasing our tails.
4. "The unemployed are powerless to change the way things are"- We have little power currently, but we can increase it by refusing to take crap from Centrelink and by joining up with others. If one person complains they can be easily ignored, but if 50 or 100 or more do so then they will have to listen.

GREAT MOMENTS IN THE LIVES OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

Melbourne, 1986- Protests from the Unemployed Workers Union force the Victorian Football League (now AFL) to provide concessions for social security recipients. Similar protests see concessions introduced for public transport and the movies.

Perth, 1930- After a huge riot by the unemployed at the Treasury buildings the WA state government begins paying out dole money to the unemployed.

Australia, 1990- The introduction of New Start sees a change in the nature of social security. Rather than providing a guaranteed minimum income for all Australians the dole becomes a payment for seeking work. These changes see large protests in all states of Australia.

Melbourne, 1932- The state government (who administered welfare payments at this time) decides to stop paying the dole in the form of tickets that can be exchanged for food. Rather than giving the unemployed a choice in what they eat they attempt to hand out bags of food, much of which is of questionable quality. In reply the unemployed in Carlton collect their food bags, proceed outside the dole office and hurl them back inside through the windows. Within a few weeks tickets are being given out again.

Melbourne, 1984- The Unemployed Workers Union and its supporters clash with Social Security workers and police at a number of Social Security offices over the right to have a UWW member present to advise recipients on their real rights.

Tasmania, 1979- During a visit to the apple isle by Prime Minister Fraser members of the Unemployed Workers Union protest by holding a soup kitchen. At one point one UWW member offers Fraser a taste of the dole by tipping tomato soup over his head.

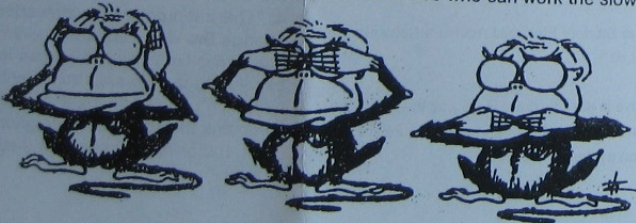
Melbourne, 1991- Members of the Unwaged Workers Movement and UWW set up picket lines outside the Dandenong Social Security office after reports that a small number of workers have been making life hell for recipients. The groups provide information to passers by and in turn make life hell for mean spirited DSS workers.

Adelaide, 1934- The unemployed kick off the "Beef riots" over their general mistreatment and the shocking quality of food they are being given.

Melbourne, 1893- Huge demonstrations are held by starving unemployed people which lead to regular clashes with police as well as occupations of government offices. After a delegation visits the Governor he decides to donate bottles of champagne and quality food to the out of work.

Brisbane, 1998- A man has his house burnt down after dobbing in someone who he believed was running a business and receiving the dole. The man warns any potential snoopers not to do what he had done since if the information gets out the consequences will be heavy.

Melbourne, 1932- Unemployed wharfies who have lost their jobs following a protracted and vicious period attacks on workers are forced into working for their dole. In protest they either sit around doing nothing or have competitions to see who can work the slowest.



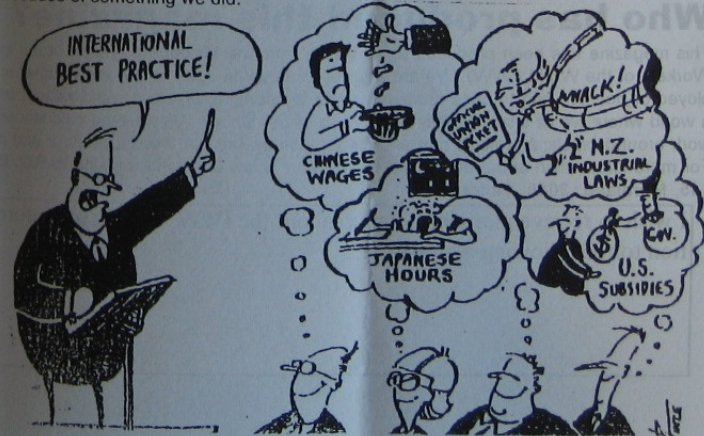
You probably know know anyway, but in case you're thinking otherwise... Why Work For The Dole and Traineeships Suck...

1. If a job is worth getting then it should be a full paying job. You can't pretend that two days a week or even a full week for bugger all is a real job.
2. Hard won working conditions are being undermined by unemployed workers being forced to work for low wages or their dole money.
3. Work for the dole sustains the current levels of unemployment as rather than employing full time staff dodgy bosses can get their work done by unpaid or lowly paid unemployed.
4. The schemes camouflage the real causes of unemployment (no jobs, increased productivity, etc) by making out that young unemployed have to be forced to do work.
5. The schemes fail to provide any real training. If the government wants to provide us with extra education then they should be letting us decide what courses really suit us and put more money into TAFEs, universities and home schooling. They could stop cutting Austudy so that we could afford to study full time.
6. By the government's own statistics there are very few people gaining jobs at the end of these schemes. In fact the only people getting jobs out of them are the bureaucrats and supervisors running them.
7. These schemes siphon large amounts of money from more worthwhile programmes. Money given to Centrelink should be spent on making lives for the out of work more tolerable not less so.

And in the case of these schemes little brother...

Why the Government Literacy schemes suck...

1. They also hide the real reasons for unemployment. Very few Australians are unlucky enough not to be able to read and write, but the government wants to make people believe that illiteracy is the real reason for 1.7 million people being out of work.
2. The schemes won't help those of us who the education system has already failed. If we didn't learn at school it is probably because we either hated the place or because its methods were not suited to us. Putting us back where we started is not going to change this.
3. Its yet another way of blaming the victim and making us think that there are no jobs available because of something we did.



Unemployed Groups And Places To Go For More Information.

SUWA Show- All the latest on unemployed and housing issues. Friday 11am, 3CR, 855AM

Unwaged Newsheet- A small group of people outside or on the edges of the paid workforce who are attempting to put together a quarterly news sheet with articles and information. Contact them at 039 349 2301 or write to the Unwaged Group, P.O. Box 251, Brunswick East, 3057.

Victorian Social Justice Council- Provides information on social saecurity rights and fights to transform the welfare system as a whole. Produces the Underclass Rising magazine. Call 039 593 9677.

Bendigo Jobseekers- Unemployed support group that meets at the Bendigo Community House. Call- 035 441 2515.

Job Watch- A consumer watchdog in employment and training this group is a community legal centre who attempt to crack down on dodgy employers. Call them on 039 662 9458.

Welfare Rights Unit- Free and independent information and advice on social security matters. Their advice tends to go by the letter of the law so intrepret it according to your situation. Call between 2 and 5pm Tuesday to Friday- 039 416 1111.

Workers Health Occupational Health Centre- A good place to go if you want a doctor who specialises in work related injuries and health problems. Located at Trades Hall, corne of Lygon and Victoria St, Carlton. Call 039 662 4820.

CERES- Is a community farm and environment park where you can learn about growing your own food, recycling, altrnative energy, etc. CERES is located at 8 Lee St, Brunswick.

LETS- LETS is the Local Exchange and Trading System. This is a trading system which does not use money and allows you to trade skills, talents, time, equipoment, possessions, goods and services for LETS currency. Contact Moreland LETS for information about your local group on Tuesdays on 039 387 2609.

COSHG- The Collective of Self Help Groups provides information about a wide range of grass roots organisations helping people with medical, social, political and other issues. Contact them on Wednesday afternoons on 039 349 2301.

Who has produced this magazine?

This magazine has been produced by members from the Melbourne branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). We are a grass roots union open to anyone whether employed or not. We aim to unite ordinary people in society to create a world without bosses, a world where we all share equally in the fruits of our labour. We have no paid leaders and work around practical projects that are aimed at improving our lives in the here and now. For more information about us clip out the coupon below and send a stamp to P.O. Box 145, Moreland, 3058, Victoria.

I wish to recieve more information about the IWW. Please send information to the following address-

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