

SUZETTE TRANSCRIPT:

I've worked in a variety of places but, the main area of work would have been in libraries.

The world of work has changed. People stayed 25 years in one job and got their gold watch. There was a permanency available.

Well, I worked full-time when I had just two children and then took the year off on maternity leave.

There were very long waiting lists for crèche in those days so I was never quite sure whether I would get a crèche place in time for when I was meant to be returning to work but, as well as looking after my four children, I was also looking after my parents as their carer.

I've saved the government an absolute fortune in looking after first one parent then the other, keeping them out of the nursing home for as long as I have.

While the skills that I've picked up along the way is appreciated in terms of oh, you'd be a wonderful volunteer for this, that and the other but, it's not appreciated in terms of you wouldn't be a good potential employee for us.

I think there's a concern with voluntary work these days that voluntary work may be taking away from paid positions, in particular if you're working alongside someone else who is doing essentially the same work or very similar but, and they're getting paid and you're not - that is a point of contention for people.

I miss work. The mental stimulation of work.

I think there's still a stigma for people that are not in paid employment.

There's the idea that people that are not in paid employment are somehow a drain on society and not making a contribution.

I'm optimistic but when there is the bias against older people it's a very difficult situation to be looking at.

So I think you need to get rid of those stereotypes.

Cost of living is going up considerably.

A lot of things that people just take for granted that you can turn on the heater, you can turn on the gas.

Yeah, I never imagined when I thought of taking a temporary time out of the workforce —

And when I consider I haven't in inverted commas "done anything wrong" — like, I've finished school, I've been to university, I've being a good employee.

But making that decision to keep parents out of the nursing home — the impact that's had on my own life and my children put me in a very, very dicey position now financially.

[video: THE WAY AUSTRALIA WORKS HAS CHANGED. WE NEED A SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE. WWW.WORKINGFOREVERYONE.COM]