

## [video description: "SUZETTE'S STORY"]

[video: middle aged woman in smart casual clothes working as a librarian is wheeling in a trolley of books and putting them away on a library shelf.]

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

[video: a man walks past obscuring view. He is wearing a leather band wrist watch. The watch has a clock face marking 25 notches. As the watch arm reaches 25, the watch band turns gold. ]

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

[video: woman walks into house after work. An elderly woman, presumably a grandmother, and two small children are sitting on the couch in the lounge room.]

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

[video: the woman walks past a window. We look out the window to see a crèche building with a long line of parents of various genders and cultural diversity with their children.]

SUZETTE: 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.

[video: the woman is holding a baby, three children ranging from age 2 – 6 are sitting on the couch and elderly grandparents are resting in armchairs in a lounge room.]

SUZETTE: 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.

[video: a montage sequence of the woman changing an IV drip on the grandfather, vacuuming the carpet, serving meals on a tray to her elderly parents and picking up toys off the ground at the end of the day. ]

SUZETTE: 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.

[video: profile of the woman as she sits in an office chair and types on a laptop. She hands over a piece of paper titled 'job application' to an off screen hand. The paper is then returned to her with the words 'job application' crossed out and replaced with 'volunteer application'. She slumps in her chair in exasperation. ]

SUZETTE: 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.

[video: A split screen of three workers in a hospital, hospitality and retail setting wearing badges, that read 'employee'. The badges are then replaced to read 'volunteer'. We focus on hospitality worker wearing a 'volunteer' badge and carrying plates, standing next to a woman in the same uniform and carrying plates but, wearing a badge that reads 'employee'. ]

SUZETTE: I miss work. The mental stimulation of work.

[video: woman sitting at a kitchen table, drumming her fingers on the table, and propping her head up with her other arm. ]

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

[video: woman sitting at a kitchen table, drumming her fingers on the table, and propping her head up with her other arm. Dozens of blinking eyes appear in the dark background, moving around and closing in on the woman.]

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

[video: The ground appears to disappear from beneath the woman. She grabs a piece of paper off the table as she falls. And lands firmly on her feet in front of an older man in a suit.]

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

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

[video: She hands the man the piece of paper, presumably a resume. He looks down at the paper, and back up at the woman, shaking his head to indicate a 'no'. The woman looks down at her feet in disappointment.]

SUZETTE: Cost of living is going up considerably.

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

[video: The woman and her three young children are in the lounge room, sitting on the couch. It is raining heavily outside, lightning is visible. The children are shivering. Two children are wearing beanies and huddled

under worn out blanket. The third child is shivering as the woman helps him put on a jumper.]

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

[video: Woman is pregnant and standing in a library surrounded by five other colleagues who are holding drinks under a banner that reads 'See you soon.' They all raise their drinks. Zoom into the woman with her hand cradling her stomach.]

SUZETTE: 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.

[video: Montage of woman as a young girl wearing a school backpack in front of a school; woman as a young adult standing at a podium in a graduation hat and gown in front of an audience, mature age woman working as a librarian putting away books; woman as a carer in her lounge room holding a tray of food.]

SUZETTE: 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: Woman surrounded by the four children, standing on a golden coin that tilts, forcing the family to regain their balance.]

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