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#DumpYourDemerits

JOB AGENCY ABUSE

Job agencies make money by placing you into outcomes. Often these outcomes are not appropriate or fair.

Common examples of job agency abuse:

Forcing you into an unfair job plan

Job Plans must reflect your personal circumstances. If your plan does not, you should renegotiate with your job agency immediately.

Denying you your right to a reasonable excuse

Before your job agency penalises you, they are required by law to ask you on the same day if you have a reasonable excuse.

Forcing you to attend too many appointments or training programs

The number of appointments you attend with your job agency must be appropriate for you. This can be as few as one per month (Jobactive) or one per fortnight (DES). If you cannot afford to travel to weekly appointments you should ask to renegotiate. Training appointments are voluntary.

Forcing you to attend Work for the Dole

You do not have to attend Work for the Dole if you choose other approved activities, such as voluntary work, approved study, or paid part time work.

Forcing you into unsuitable work

You are not required to accept employment that is not suitable for you (i.e. due to a medical condition) or that is more than 90 minutes travel each way.

Disrespectful treatment

Your job agency must treat you fairly and with respect in a culturally sensitive way.

Not Providing Services

Your job agency must canvass the local labour market, assist you to look for work, help you write a resume, and refer you to suitable vacancies.

How to Complain in Writing:

If your job agency has broken the rules of the system, you must complain to them in writing, via email or hard copy. This keeps a record of abuse which can be forwarded to the Department, politicians, Centrelink and ASIC.

HOW TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST UNFAIR JOB AGENCY & CENTRELINK PENALTIES



DUMP YOUR DEMERITS!

Australian
Unemployed
Workers'
Union

"Working for everyone's right to dignified social security and employment."



DEMERIT POINTS PENALTIES



The Government's unjust, tough, new Demerit Point System is coming to a job agent near you!

Who: Everyone who is required to attend a job agency.

When: July 1 st 2018

What: Strips you of your right to appeal job agency penalties, and introduces harsher fines.

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#DumpYourDemerits

HOW DEMERIT POINTS WORK:

If your job agency thinks you have failed to meet your requirements, they must contact you on the same business day to see if you have a reasonable excuse.

If no reasonable excuse exists, they will impose a demerit point. This will result in your payment being suspended.

To reinstate your payment, you must contact your job agency immediately to reengage.

Each demerit point will expire after a 6 month period.

1 - 4 pts * * * *

Payment Suspension

The government has stripped you of your right to appeal against these penalties. Three points in six months will result in a 'Capability Interview' with your agency. If your job agency determines that your requirements are inappropriate, they must reset your demerit points to zero.

5 pts * * * * *

Suspension & Assessment

Five demerits within six months will result in a payment suspension and a 'Centrelink Capability Assessment'. If Centrelink determines that your requirements are inappropriate, they must reset your demerit points to zero. As with all Centrelink decisions, this can be appealed within 13 weeks.

PENALTY ZONE

If you don't receive a demerit point within three months of entering the penalty zone, your demerit points must be reset to zero.

6 pts * * * * *

50% Newstart Reduction

7 pts * * * * *

100% Newstart Reduction

8 pts * * * * *

Payment Cancellation

Cannot Reapply for 4 Weeks

HOW THEY FINE YOU:

If no reasonable excuse exists, your job agency will submit a 'participation report' to Centrelink recommending a financial penalty be imposed.

Centrelink must contact you to see if you have a reasonable excuse. If Centrelink believe no reasonable excuse exists, the financial penalty will be imposed. This decision can be appealed within 13 weeks.

Note: You can face instant cancellation if Centrelink determines that you have failed to start or leave a suitable job, or are dismissed for misconduct without a good reason. (does not apply to ParentsNext program)

How To Resist:

The government has cruelly taken away your right to appeal against job agency decisions (pts 1-4).

As a result, it is up to you to build your case for when you are able to appeal at points 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Follow these three steps to Dump Your Demerits!

Keep a diary of all interactions (can include audio recordings), note dates, what was said, and how they disrespected your rights.

Complain in writing to department, job agency, politicians, media, ASIC etc.

Collect all complaints and evidence to be presented at assessments and appeals.

Remember you are not alone.

The AUWU hotline and advocacy services are here to support you through this process.

If unemployed workers unite to fight back against this unfair system, the government's punitive \$10 billion job agency system will crumble under the pressure.

Join the fight and Dump Your Demerits!

#DumpYourDemerits