

From: A.J. Blair
Sent: Monday, 3 May 2004 10:17 AM
To: demographics@treasury.gov.au
Subject: RE: Australia's Demographic Challenges

I believe that the welfare sector has been reformed enough, and you need to let current reforms take shape and develop before introducing anything more, and if future reforms are to take place then I think they should only be for new clients, not existing ones.

I think people on five year reviews of the disability pension should no longer be reviewed as their illness or disability is permanent and only have two year reviews for the lesser disable, so that for some, they can have income support while they are recovering, or receiving treatment and for others assess them after two years.

As for single parents, more childcare places will need to be made available and for concession card holders, have their children cared for for free while their trying to look for work.

I think the health system needs more money, so that people who are waiting for operations can have them done in weeks instead of months (and years) which means that patients can return to work instead of having to rely on welfare.

University place should be offered for free to health care card holders (those that pass entrance exams) and nursing and teaching courses could also be offered for free to low and middle income earners, as this would help with the short fall of skilled workers. Instead of offering large tax cuts now, give small tax relief, but pay the rest of the tax cut into workers super funds.

Make compulsory, that all workers have one super fund, issued at the same time as they receive their tax file number.

Also issue people on newstart payments with a superfund, as the government could (as part of their payments) could pay money into this to help with their retirement. After all it is taxpayers money and not government.

As for older workers, do away with the junior wage, as some company's tend to favor juniors as they are cheaper, keep the unfair dismissal law, especially for small business, as sometimes its the smaller companies that are the worst offenders, and fine large company's when they announce for example a 4 billion dollar profit, then sack 1500 hundred workers, and encourage company's to keep the work here in Australia.

Kind Regards
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