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(1) In Australia it can be argued that in one schema or another (e.g. 'work for the dole'; 'mutual obligation'; 'robodebt') this unfounded negative attitude of the unemployed can still be reflected in federal government social welfare policy to this day. Furthermore, the Commonwealth Employment Service that existed at the time I was briefly unemployed is essentially no more in the neoliberal era with its ideological penchant towards privatisation (and casualization). Private employment services it is said also have an officially endorsed capability to profiteer off the jobless within a Kafkaesque administration that overall is punitively weighted unjustly against them. While welfare fraud does need to be outed it seems that while there every official effort is made to minimize the illegal procurement of social benefits by individual recipients on balance one may argue that there does not seem to be the same government zeal to at least officially identify and close down design irregularities within a privatised employment system which can place an unnecessary financial strain on the pubic purse. Along with growing concerns as to the moral adequacy of 'mutual obligation' there has also in recent times been an increasing call out to reintroduce the Commonwealth Employment Service which one assumes could shutdown a 'profit motivation' that can be perceived as a corrosive driver within the private job search arena. (Although government management would be eternally enticed into looking at ways to initiate cost-cutting budgetary measures at least there may also be more transparent oversight by way of senate estimates inquiries to avert the worse aspects of placing financial interests above any genuine interest to meet the social value needs of a various, wide ranging cohort of welfare recipients who desperately need help to get back on track with their lives which often through no real fault of their own have been economically derailed and not just by job unavailability but also by other negative extraneous variables such as health issues, domestic violence, accommodation difficulties etcetera). It should also be mentioned that in Australia unemployment benefits in particular also remain scandalously well below the Henderson poverty line which has been the perilous case for several decades. Yet during the recent Covid pandemic - which is actually still continuing - when there was a sudden mass upsurge in jobless numbers unemployment benefits were actually considerably raised for a set time which can be seen as an official admission that the financial support available was inadequate and with the rise there was actually a positive social effect. However, with this particular unemployment crisis nominally now over it has been seen fit to also have a financial reduction in unemployment benefits with even an incoming Federal ALP government choosing to maintain such a tight fiscal policy towards the disadvantaged, as was the case under the previous LNP federal administration – except, of course, for the brief Covid period - it may also be argued that during Covid the entire Australian body politic including government, the labour movement and social welfare NGOs perhaps missed a golden opportunity to experimentally introduce a Universal Basic Income if only on a trial basis. Furthermore, a government legislated protective regulatory regime that would provide adequate work rights, pay etcetera to all precarious workers in the so called 'gig economy' would also be welcome. (Think also halting wage theft and drastically improving the working lives of those slavishly involved with food and parcel delivery services; labour hire and thus general speaking all casual staff in the nation).

In regards to negative aspect of 'work for the dole' there is for instance the following news item:

'Pushes people into greater hardship': Well-known charity cuts ties with Work for the Dole. SBS News. (January. 2024).

https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/brotherhood-of-st-laurence-cuts-ties-with-work-for-the-dole-program/yrniey6h0?cid=testtwitter