
From: Masden Media |
Sent: Wednesday, 20 April 2016 2:22 PM
To: Registrar WAIRC
Subject: minimum wage submission/matter number 1 of 2016

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Minimum wage 2016

Registrar: Here is a brief comment from a grandfather after 50 years as a worker.

Anybody wondering why so few young people want to become apprentices in any trade should consider the starting wage...which is probably based on the minimum adult wage. Mr grandson Jack was a schoolboy working part-time at **Hungry Jacks Hamburgers and paid \$18 an hour.**

And treated very well.

At 17, he left school and became an **apprentice plumber and paid \$8.94 an hour**

This was a pay cut of near \$10 an hour.

It's easy to imagine the effect if he goes back to his old school and tells the current Year 12s about his experience. Don't imagine any of them would be rushing to become an apprentice in any trade.

Apprentices are often have to do hard, dirty noxious work for very low pay.

In his case the work as a plumber started with a summer spent mostly digging trenches for pipes to be laid to new houses. Later he got to clear blocked sewer pipes. Obviously a smelly and dirty job that few people would want to do no matter how high the pay rate. Especially in a Perth summer of 42-degree days.

And for this he got \$8.95 an hour!

In your deliberations, it would be fair to consider the social environs ... at 17 a human in our western culture is discovering adult life - cars, night life, clothes, fashion, music, fun and excitement... which often requires money.

A pay rate of \$8.95 leads to a fairly quiet life. Even for a boy who is a lifesaver (I pay his fees) and volunteers at surf club to teach Nippers and help organise carnivals; plays soccer, does not drink alcohol and is generally very frugal. He has stuck to his apprenticeship and is near to the finish... with the use of a work car from his new boss who is supportive and friendly... but still pays only the minimum rate. This is the same boss who recently went to Europe for three weeks and left Jack to run the business alone - and to live in and look after the boss's house!

Good luck George Williams