

To  
Kelly Hoare MP,  
Suite 2,  
180 Main Road,  
Speers Point,  
N.S.W. 2284.

From  
Mr Phillip E. Pettet,  
N.S.W.

24/02/02

Dear Kelly,

I am writing to you to submit a proposal. I am requesting also that you bring this proposal to the attention of the following:

- 1) Jenny Macklin MP.
- 2) Mal Brough MP.
- 3) The National Policy Committee.

**The Proposal:**

For the Federal Government TO SUPPLY FREE OF CHARGE INTERNET CONNECTION and ACCESS FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONAL.

My reasoning's are as follows:

**Methods of finding employment:**

In my brief time of being unemployed I have found that there are a number of ways to obtain information regarding positions vacant in the job market. A number of these are:

- 1) Daily inspection of local newspapers,
- 2) Periodic access to Centerlink touch screen terminals,
- 3) Periodic access to a number of web sites referring to employment vacancies,
- 4) Registration at a number of employment agencies,
- 5) Registration at a number of employment service agencies.

**Problems associated with methods of finding employment:**

There are a great number of problems associated with all of the above methods. These are (as I perceive them to be) as follows:

- 1) Daily inspection of local newspapers.
  - la) Not all newspapers have a "position vacant" every day,
  - lb) Cost for daily newspapers would be approximately \$8 to \$10 per week,
  - lc) Not all positions that are vacant are listed in any of the newspapers

- 2) Periodic access to Centerlink touch screen terminals.

- 2a) As there are only (to my knowledge) eleven (11) locations in the Newcastle & Lower Hunter areas, access to these terminals are not within reasonable reach of most personal.

- 2b) Once you get to a terminal to access the "Australian Job Network" you are able to search by a number of methods. The most practical being "Today's New Jobs". This is of course if you are able to get to a terminal on a daily basis, however this is not always possible. I myself need to reserve the fuel that I have to make the journey to job interviews & to travel to any number of employment service providers to register.

2c) I understand that under government contracts to employment service providers, it is required that all positions that are on their books, are to be placed on the Australian Job Network, this is of course acceptable, however, not all jobs are listed at agencies that have government contracts and therefore do not get onto the network.

2d) Due to the constant listings of new positions that become available, the network is changing constantly & therefore a job that you are suitable to apply for may not be listed at the time that you access the terminal, but will become "active" as you walk out the door, therefore there is a need to spend a great deal of time at these terminals constantly refreshing the screen every 20 minutes or so as the network I believe "updates" every 20 minutes.

2e) I myself on a number of occasions, have found jobs suitable. When I have used the facilities at the Centerlink office to contact the agencies involved, I am told the position has been closed due to the amount of people that have applied for that position. In a number of cases the position had been "closed" the day before, but had become "reactivated" when the agencies re-assessed the position to update relevant information as the position had been filled.

### 3) Periodic access to a number of web sites referring to employment vacancies.

3a) As the Centerlink terminals are only connected to the "Australian Job Network" other sites that have other positions are not accessible, therefore all possible positions can not be accessed.

3b) To access all other employment web sites, the need to have internet access via a P.C. is required. Although there are P.C. terminals at most of the employment agencies locations, we are still hindered with getting to the terminals as noted in section 2.

3c) The easiest way to access this information is via a P.C. at home, where you can logon at any time, however the cost for this service can become expensive. This cost would include the P.C. itself, dial up connection fee every time you access the Internet & provider costs. There are a number of services available, however, the site that you access needs to be refreshed at least every 20 minutes to list the new positions that become available. This means being connected for a long period of time, and to download information each time that the site is accessed or refreshed. The method that I currently use is a pay as you use system that has unlimited downloads. This system costs me \$2.20 /Hr that I am connected, plus the access charge being the phone call via the P.C. modem. This I do 2 or 3 times a day so the phone calls alone will be up to \$1 a day plus the time connected. An other system is a fixed charge system with a limit on the downloads at 300meg' per month. With this system you may only need to "connect" once per day but you are in fact limited to five (5) hours at any one time and with the need to refresh the screen from time to time or access another site you will soon use up all of the limited download within a week or so depending on the usage. This cost is around \$25 per month.

3d) Making use of your home phone line in such a manner is not practical either. If I was to have my P.C. connected to the net all day I would not receive any calls to attend interviews for the positions that I have applied for. We then have a need for a mobile phone for contact to and from employers or their agencies or a second "land line".

### 4) Registration at a number of employment agencies.

4a) I am under the understanding that employment agencies have three main roles within the service that they supply.

4a1) To serve as a collection point for employers to access employees,

4a2) To contact prospective employees for positions on their books,

4a3) To "filter" and interview those who wish to apply for an advertised position.

This too is of course acceptable, however after you are listed with an agency you are not contacted as they are too busy to search the so-called database for prospective employees as positions become available. This also raises the point what types of databases are being used? What is the procedure for the use of such a database? Is the database searched first or is the position placed onto the network without a database search?

### 5) Registration at a number of employment service agencies.

5a) When it comes to private agencies, they rely on a fee from the interested employers.

Therefore, there are no set guidelines that are followed, and the same problems exist as with the government-contracted agencies.

**Possible solutions for Problems associated with methods of finding employment:**

With all this in mind the key problem is simply access to any job network by an unemployed person.

There are as I see it a number of solutions. These are as follows:

- 1) Not knowing the databases systems that are used by the agencies, I would consider that there should be a standard database used by all employment agencies & a standard procedure is to be used. Part of this procedure would be that as a position is listed, prospective employees are contacted before the position is placed on the network. This can be very in-depth & can be discussed at a later date.
  
- 2) A "in house" network would need to be set up, possibly in the following manner:
  - 2.a) Centerlink or the Federal Government would setup it's own provider service. This service is for access by unemployed personal only.
  - 2.b) Centerlink or the Federal Government would setup it's own "1800" service for access to the provider. This service is for access by unemployed personal only. I am sure that the Federal Government could swing a deal with Telstra to keep the cost to \$0.00
  - 2.c) For access to the above services a person would use their "job seeker" No: as a pass word or access code.
  - 2.d) The service provider would be limited to a number of employment sites starting with the Australian Job Network. Any other site providers would apply for the rights to have there sites accessible via this system & of course pay for the privilege.
  - 2.e) The touch screen terminals could be modified to also access these sites.
  - 2.f) Old government computers could also be allocated to the unemployed that do not have a P.C. at home. I would consider that there would be a need for this. However, if there were more than one unemployed person in the one household then only one P.C. would be issued.
  - 2.g) This P.C. would be modified so as to limit the used of the device & to prevent access to the hard drive setup as well as no Diskette drive.

This is my proposal in brief, and if it was to go any further I would be only to glade to create a flow chart or to write the procedures for such an exercise. If you wish to discuss this in further detail please contact me via the following:

Ph:  
Fax:  
Mob:

With kind regards  
Phillip Pettet.