

7(a)

Social class, ethnicity and prejudice have affected the power and authority of the unemployed in Australian society.

According to Craig McGregor, Australia has a ^{social} class structure, and quote "Class is the overriding cause of social injustice and inequality" ^{in Australia}. "It is central to political and economic power." Many of the unemployed Australians would strongly agree with this statement.

~~_____~~ : 2/3/74

The determinants of class include family background, way of life, occupation, money, power and education. Often a combination of these can be the crucial determinants of what class you belong to.

The unemployed are members of the underclass and are often caught in a trap. They have little skills which causes low employment, this causes low income which causes poor housing and health which causes low education

achievements for their children causing little skills, and so the cycle begins again. Making it very hard for the next generation to escape the trap.

Ethnicity often ~~also~~ affects a person's chances at getting employment. However legislation for example the Anti-discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) has helped overcome this inequality. Prejudice toward singleparent mothers who also cannot attain employment has been helped by the Human rights and Equal Opportunities Commission 1986 (Cth).

However a combination of social class, ethnicity and prejudice can effect the power and authority of the unemployed. They are often disregarded by the wider society and evidence shows a growing intolerance toward the unemployed.

Because they have ~~low~~ little education, they know little about how to influence governments legislation etc.

Ethnicity of the unemployed can often mean they have poor english and language skills making it even harder to find employment and they would also have little chance of having any power to influence governments as they don't clearly understand the language.

Prejudice against the unemployed is overcome by community initiatives. The unemployed are helped by services provided by in their community. Welfare payments made by the federal government also assist the unemployed.

However with legislation, community initiatives and welfare, this still doesn't give the unemployed power and authority. However it does help to combat the problems of unemployment and solve future problems.

Graig McGregor stated also that "Class is the crucial determinant of who gets what and who is treated fairly and who is not treated fairly". This sums up how

the unemployed must feel about belonging
to the underclass. less opportunities, less
equality.