

## YOUTH and Unemployment

## NYCA Report

The report indicates, that, in fact the situation could be far worse than it appears as many unemployed do not register with the C.E.S.

NYCA believes that the unemployment situation will worsen and states in the document that ". . . . it is very doubtful that any Australian Government can make a fundamental assault on unemployment."

### Important areas

There are several important areas which NYCA believes can be pursued:—

- (i) the encouragement of the young unemployed to organise amongst themselves and with the active support of youth organizations and other is the youth field.
- (ii) The active and vigilant countering of all unjustified attacks on the young unemployed by Government or business. In particular we refer to the "dole-bludger-bashing" that occurred in an alarming way earlier in the year.
- (iii) the exchange of information between different groups of young unemployed throughout the country. In particular we refer to self-help and make-work-projects that have been started in many centres. In this supplement we include a summary of many of these projects. NYCA hopes to act as a link between such projects in the future.
- (iv) the education of the young to their rights if they become unemployed. NYCA is aware that many young people are suffering terrible hardship through ignorance of their rights. In this supplement we include the draft of a pamphlet prepared by young unemployed in Geelong, that may be of use to youth workers for reproduction.
- (v) the need to press for substantial changes in the criteria and rules that govern a person's eligibility for unemployment benefits. NYCA also recognises the need for considerable improvement in the hidden criteria derived for the personal attitudes of CES officers responsible for implementing the scheme.
- (vi) the need to stimulate public debate about the underlying economic, political and sociological causes of the now apparently chronic unemployment problems in the Western countries.

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# "YOUTH bearing unequal brunt"

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Youth are bearing an unequal brunt of unemployment according to the National Youth Council of Australia in the document YOUTH and UNEMPLOYMENT.

According to the Youth section of the COMMONWEALTH department of Employment and Industrial relations there are five juveniles to every one adult unemployed. The Brotherhood of St. Lawrence survey put the figure as high as one in three.

### Far worse

At the end of February there were 303,739 registered unemployed in Australia with the Commonwealth Employment service. This is equivalent to 5% of the workforce and is the highest level of unemployment since the Great depression.

### Unemployed

If you are unemployed, involved in, or interested in the question, NYCA would like to hear from you to establish contact and exchange views.

The Head office is at 23 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne Victoria.