

JOBLESS YOUTH - By Bob Day, Adelaide, SA
Letter to the Australian Friday 7 January, 2011
Information from Michael Moore - H R Nicholls Society

Donald Richardson (Letters,6/1) is correct in saying "we have hundreds of under-educated, unemployed youth in the working-class suburbs of most of our cities and towns" but quite wrong in who he blames for this tragic situation. He points the finger at employers and the education system for failing to train these young people and adds further insult to injury by saying "and the government does nothing about it."

This poses the obvious question: why is youth unemployment a modern phenomenon and how did previous generations of "under-educated youths" (most left school at 15) become the extremely successful tradesmen of today?

Ask any employer - particularly any small business employer - and they will tell you, without hesitation, that employing people these days is too hard. It is too expensive, too complicated and too dangerous. It didn't used to be that way. And there was no youth unemployment and no shortage of trades people.