



Ageism is evident in how we, as a society, treat older people, TARNYA DAVIS writes.

WITH a push from most, including the Business Council, for a real increasing in NewStart, which hasn't change other than CPI since 1994, the rhetoric of some is the PM's "you have a go you get a go".

While most think of NewStart as being for the young, Social Security figures indicate there are more workers aged 55 to 64 receiving Newstart than any other age group, and these older workers also spend the longest on Newstart.

In most prehistoric societies, older people were respected, and people who lived beyond 50 were thought to have been chosen by God. But the industrial revolution and the advent of medical advances that kept people alive for longer led society to regard older people as non-contributing burdens.

There are a few pockets in the world where more people live to over 100, and psychologist Susan Pinker's research suggests this is because older people are connected to their community and valued. We know that isolation kills for all of us, and that work is more than the money - it's about connection.

Ageism is evident in how we, as a society, treat older people. There is evidence that these stereotypes and false beliefs occur everywhere. This includes in job interviews, where the interviewer believes they are assessing objectively, but are really relying on their prejudice that seeps through and influences them to decide, more often than not, to give the job to a younger person.

The problem for this group is not having a go, but getting a go.

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