



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Opinion Piece by ACCI Chief Executive Peter Hendy for the Bulletin magazine on "Should there be a Compulsory Age for Retirement" – 26 May 2004

Should There Be a Compulsory Age for Retirement

Peter Hendy

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"No. People should retire when they choose to. Australia has a relatively small population with an ageing workforce. Arbitrary retirement dates mean that productive skills are unnecessarily lost. People should be encouraged to maintain a role in the labour force. This does not mean 'work till you drop'. Rather, it means having an attachment to the world of work beyond traditional retirement dates. This could be by a longer transition to retirement – through contract, casual, part-time or voluntary work. We need flexible employment laws and sensible unfair dismissal laws. Attitudes to aged workers need to improve, and employment regulation needs to make it commercially viable for workers to be employed beyond traditional retirement dates, with the minimum of risk."