



Is New Zealand a country of opportunities? The struggles that people face with getting jobs are disturbing and upsetting. It shouldn't be this hard for someone to contribute to society because of a shortage of jobs. Something needs to be done about it or there will be economic and social consequences for New Zealand. These consequences could be current employees being overloaded and the economy becoming worse as well as New Zealand not being the same competitive country it used to be.

As someone who is currently looking for a job and does not have previous experience, there looks to be hundreds of jobs online, but obviously that's too good to be true. "To get this job you need 2 years experience" or "no experience needed but full NZ drivers licence for a minimum of two years".

How am I supposed to get two years experience with every job needing two years experience? It's a bad system that has been set up and is becoming a bigger problem than just teens not having jobs. There are full industries that are short on workers but won't take anyone who doesn't fit their requirements, causing workers to be overloaded and overworked. Last month more than 158,000 people were unemployed, which was 16,000 more than the last year (TVNZ news).

Some of the reasons for this job opportunity shortage is because of the large amount of competition of people who are looking for jobs. There are limited opportunities in certain areas, and many people getting jobs through knowing someone, which isn't fair. At least give the job to the people who perform the best not someone whose parents, friends or cousin knows the guy that works there. This can't keep happening. Now I'm not saying that it's impossible, but it shouldn't even be something that's really a struggle. Businesses don't bother to look at online CVs and won't give you the time of day to talk to them face to face. Therefore the job shortage in New Zealand is making it harder for people to live comfortably, have freedom to do what they like, and just live their lives.

What I believe NZ needs, is to give younger people the opportunity to get jobs and contribute to society, but no. What needs to be done, is businesses need to start taking in younger employees and this also isn't just for the sake of the person being employed. Studies show that having a range of ages in a business helps it thrive at its best so this would be good for the employer as well. Also if New Zealand is able to expand as a country more businesses will want to grow in New Zealand causing there to be many more job opportunities. Where I live, a lot of young people don't have jobs. Businesses need to wake up and realise that young people have a lot to add and that giving them opportunities will benefit everyone and even help with profits.

So to conclude this writing, there are many things that are causing problems with the job market. New Zealand needs to fix it. Understaffed businesses, people getting jobs through word of mouth, and too high expectations with experience from employers. This isn't acceptable. I'm able to see it, you're able to see it. That New Zealand isn't the same job hungry country that it used to be.