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## Workskills Fact Sheet Number 7

# MOVING ON AFTER REDUNDANCY

**T**his is a tough time for job security, but we probably don't need to tell you that. Being made redundant is difficult to deal with, but when you're just that little bit older it suddenly seems as though there's a much bigger mountain to climb.

It's not impossible though. Below you'll find a list of top tips to help you:

- A bit of positive thinking
- Make some quick cash
- Update your CV
- Consider consultancy work
- Try something new
- Get networking

Talk to Workskills to see if you're eligible for service. Also check Workskills Fact Sheet 10 'Redundancy. The practical next steps.'

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## BE POSITIVE

Ok, so we know this is pretty tough when you've just lost your job, but we want to remind you of a few reasons why your age or experience can be an advantage:

**Experience** – if you're over 50 then chances are you have a long and distinguished career behind you already. Even if you're not you've no doubt had a working life full of great learning experiences. You'll have a wealth of knowledge that no fresh graduate could ever hope to match.

**Contacts** – you will also have built up a network of invaluable contacts within your profession; a huge plus for your future employer.

**Adaptability** – it sounds unlikely, but older people are often more able to cope with an adapting work place.

You'll be accustomed to changing procedures, techniques and technology, and you'll have learned to change with them.

So there you have it: youth and talent are no match for age and experience. There's actually a lot to be excited about.

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## MAKE EXTRA CASH

While you're looking for another job there might be many ways for you to make a bit of extra cash on the side to tide you over.

Grow and sell your own vegetables and fruit, do a bit of gardening, get in touch with a market research company and offer to be in focus groups, think about house sitting, enter online competitions (some people do this full time!)

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## TIME TO SAVE!

If you were given a reasonable amount of money as part of your Redundancy Package, make sure you put it into a safe savings account that pays great interest and ensure you can access funds quickly and easily.

Talk to a reliable Financial Advisor to assist you through these times. Planning at the beginning can help save money (and headaches) as time goes by.

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## REVITALISE YOUR RESUME

One of the first things you'll want to do is brush the dust off your resume and update it. Check out Workskills Fact Sheet Number 5, 'Putting A Resume Together' to find out how to go about it. Resume styles and presentation actually need to be reviewed as employers and HR Departments continually evolve. What might have been 'best practise' in 2002 might not cut it today.

A great thing to do is to send your CV as a pdf file. Not only will it look more professional and slick, it will show off your technical expertise. Try using free converters like <http://www.doc2pdf.net/> to easily convert your existing text resume.

Remember that you don't have to make a direct reference to your age in your CV. You've got a wealth of experience on your side, so it's important you highlight that.

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## KEEP UP WITH THE CROWD

Make sure you get involved with social networking for grown-ups. Sites like [LinkedIn.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com) help you stay in touch with other professionals of all ages and illustrate that you're not scared of technology. [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com) also has specific sections for getting work and finding job opportunities. *(More info overleaf)*

Your connections can recommend you for posts and let you know about jobs coming up.

Typing skills are also a major bonus. If you can type at around 50-80 words per minute it'll increase your chances. Sites like <http://www.typingtest.com/> can help.

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## CONSIDER CONSULTANCY

If you have significant experience in your profession, why not farm your knowledge and skills out? From gardening to tax advice, PR to publishing, in theory you can become a consultant in anything. For some great tips on how check out <http://www.entrepreneur.com/>

There are lots of great sites on the web giving advice on starting again after redundancy so it's worth searching to find some positive and actionable ideas.

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## TRY SOMETHING NEW

Perhaps this is the opportunity you needed to start up a business you've always dreamed of running. Obviously you need to be sensible and have a realistic idea, but this is your chance to be adventurous.

It seems like now isn't really the time to do it, but actually if you've got a really good idea and some solid plans it could be the perfect time. Again, talk to your Financial Advisor and also search the web for options. You can start by looking up this address: <http://www.business.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

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## REMEMBER IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

If you don't want all the responsibility of running your own business, you could still think about starting on a whole new career path. Again you can search the web for free online courses and even listen to university lectures from the very best universities in the world like Oxford and Harvard. Without the fees!

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## LOOK OUT FOR DISCRIMINATION

Despite employment laws proscribing against discrimination, you can still find your way to top jobs barred through a number of avenues.

Whether it's age, sex, race, disability or any other issue you believe to be a problem you can find out about Australia's Anti-Discrimination Laws at sites like <http://www.findlaw.com.au>

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## GET THE NETWORK HAPPENING

Not all jobs are advertised. It's interesting to note that many are found through word-of-mouth and personal connections. Get out there and get networking to make contacts and massively increase your chance of finding another job.

If you have set up your own business join professional and industry organisations that cover your area of work. Most have regular networking events and offer help for business people. Get in touch with your local Chamber of Commerce to join up and get started. Even places like Lions Clubs, Rotary etc. can be great networking opportunities.

Get out there and make sure you have a handy business card (a personal one is fine if you're not working at all) and a friendly attitude.

You never know what a chance meeting with an interesting person can lead to!

N.B. Some of the information provided here has been adapted from articles at [www.moneymagpie.co.uk](http://www.moneymagpie.co.uk)

