

Blocked from seeking work

By ERICA BAIGRIE

KEVIN Crawley has been on the Disability Support Pension for 10 years and wants to re-enter the workforce, but is continually being faced with road blocks.

Mr Crawley feels fit enough to go back to work, but has found he cannot get any help from job agencies without being taken off the DSP by Centrelink.

"I would love a job, but I really wouldn't know where to start," he said.

After going through a Job Capacity Assessment at Centrelink the 57-year-old was told he could work eight to 15 hours a week, which would entitle him to be taken off the DSP and go on to the less generous Newstart Allowance.

Mr Crawley would have been happy with that, but the change never happened because the assessment result was suddenly altered, with no explanation, to nought to seven hours.

That meant he could not be switched from the DSP to Newstart or go to an agency for help to find work.

Despite getting two certificates from his doctor saying he is fit to fit, Mr Crawley's pension still has not been changed.

"My doctor ... has basically said I can work and I can work more than 15 hours a week, but that hasn't been accepted by Centrelink," he said.

A bulging disc in his back is the source of the former tow-bar-fitter's problems, giving

"I don't see myself as having a disability."

him regular but manageable pain.

"I don't see myself as having a disability," he said.

A Department of Human Services spokeswoman said the department believed Mr Crawley should be on the DSP.

"We are aware of this customer and are confident he is receiving the correct payment for his current circumstances," she said.

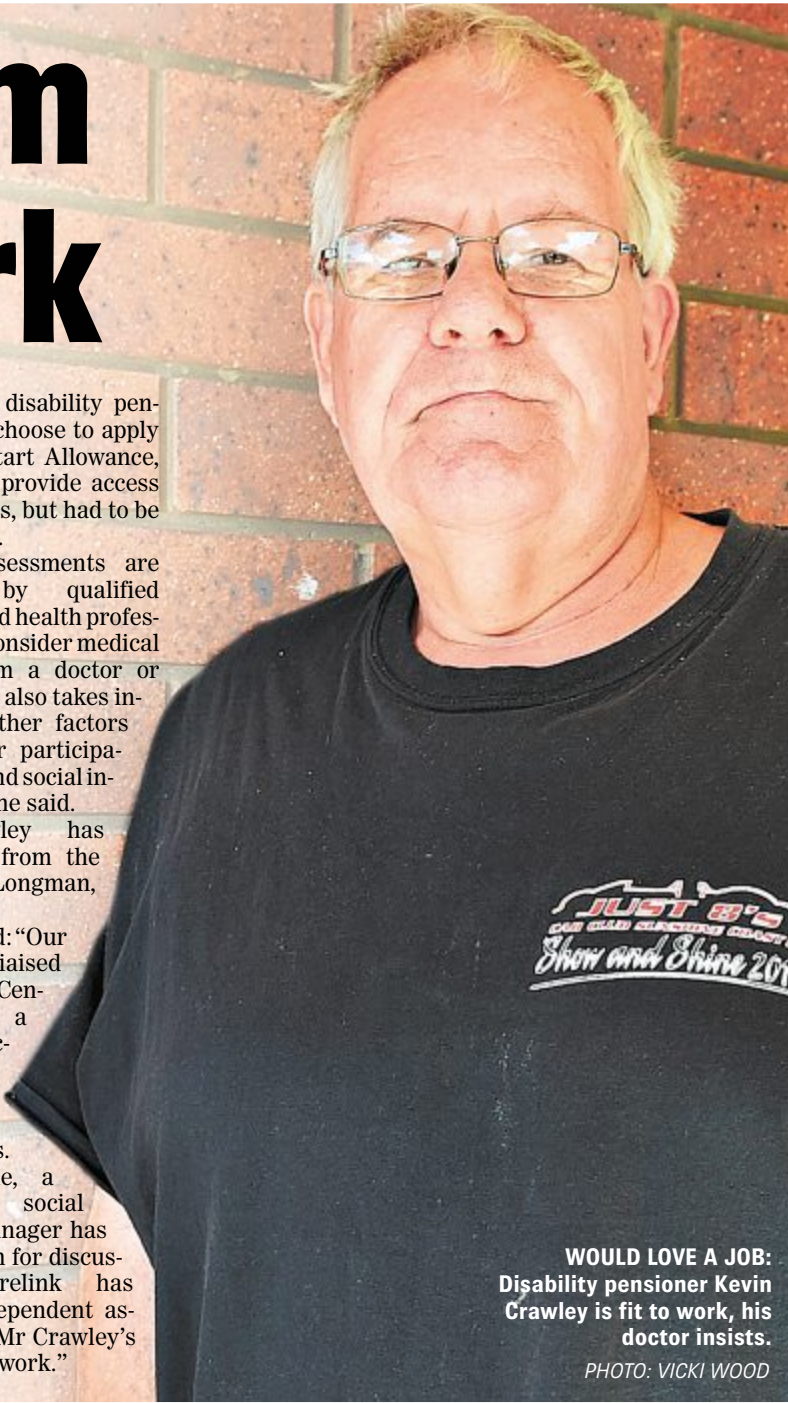
She said a disability pensioner could choose to apply for the Newstart Allowance, which would provide access to job agencies, but had to be assessed first.

"These assessments are conducted by qualified health or allied health professionals who consider medical evidence from a doctor or specialist and also takes into account other factors such as their participation history and social interactions," she said.

Mr Crawley has sought help from the Member for Longman, Wyatt Roy.

The MP said: "Our office has liaised closely with Centrelink on a number of occasions in relation to Mr Crawley's concerns.

"Each time, a Centrelink social worker or manager has contacted him for discussions. Centrelink has made an independent assessment on Mr Crawley's eligibility for work."



WOULD LOVE A JOB: Disability pensioner Kevin Crawley is fit to work, his doctor insists.

PHOTO: VICKI WOOD

Snatched dog found wandering

A DOG snatched from its front yard in Mooloolah has been returned home in bizarre circumstances.

But Shane Smith, who owns the pet with his partner and their family, is not complaining.

Skye, their 10-month old blue American staffy, was dropped back at Mooloolah Police Station on Saturday morning after the people who found her, without a collar and wandering at a Landsborough park read the frantic family's story in the Daily.

"Awesome," was how Mr Smith described being reunited with the family's much-loved dog.

"Everyone's really happy, it's great," he said.

Mr Smith had spent considerable time inspecting various litters to find the perfect puppy, so was extra disappointed when Skye was snatched by the occupants of a passing ute on Saturday, July 13, from their Diamond Valley Rd property.

Skye's best friend, the family's four-year-old bitsa, Minty, was also elated to see her back home.

"She jumped all over her - it was great," Mr Smith said.

The family who found Skye made no mention of the offered reward, but asked to be contacted when Skye had her first litter in about 14 months.

Get legal on Australian Roads!

The law states that it is illegal to hold a phone in your hand while operating a vehicle. Drivers are only allowed to use a mobile phone to make and receive phone calls if the phone is secured in a commercially available cradle which is fixed to the vehicle. Any infringement is heavily fined through the Australian government. A fine of \$330 and the loss of three demerit points is no rarity. Strike, Australia's leading provider of Bluetooth car technologies, recently engineered the most advanced phone cradle yet, the Strike Alpha. The Strike Alpha Car Cradle is Australian designed, engineered and manufactured. It is fully compliant with Australian road laws and will not only minimize driver distraction, but also enhance the user experience. The Cradle is designed to fit the user's phone perfectly. It has a flush passive antenna that helps boost signal especially in rural areas - eliminating black spot problems.

Additionally, the Strike Alpha Cradle is the only car cradle with an embedded NFC (Near Field Communication) chip allowing NFC enabled phone users to automatically control phone functions when the device is placed in the cradle*.

The Strike Alpha is compatible with all Bluetooth car kits. It is also fully pass through compatible, which means that it can be used with any car kit, entertainment unit or computer. The Strike Alpha Cradle is available for a professional installation or for an easy DIY installation. It accepts 12/24 Volt charging which makes it great for both cars and trucks.

Strike recently teamed up with Telstra, the leading telecommunications company in Australia, to provide their Alpha Cradle to drivers throughout Australia. The Strike Alpha Car Cradle is now available at TLife Sunshine Coast. Shop GD 123, Sunshine Plaza, Horton Parade, Maroochydore QLD 4558

* exclusive to android phones



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Strike has one Alpha Cradle to give away!

To win a cradle of your choice please email entries to promos@strike.com.au. To participate, you just have to email the following:-

Name:
Address:
Contact Number: Email address:.....

For a full list of Strike Alpha Cradles available, please visit www.strike.com.au
Entries are open from July 23 to 30. Winner will be contacted on July 31 via email.