

MEDIA RELEASE

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Kevin in transition

When Kevin Rudd lost his job last month he joined the ranks of more than 25,000[#] Australians who were retrenched or involuntarily lost their jobs in June. About 40% (273,000) of all unemployed people have faced a similar fate to Kevin Rudd and like him need the right advice to make an effective transition.

What happened to Kevin Rudd is not that different to hundreds of working Australians who find themselves out of a job each day. It is the changing nature of the working landscape and the look on Kevin's face said it all. Is this the respect and recognition I get for all my hard work?

Interestingly, he was in fact Prime Minister for longer than more than half of the 27 Prime Ministers of Australia. And, while Kevin still has a job it does not diminish his undeniable sense of loss. What next for a man who has reached the top but is now clearly in transition as he regroups in his interim role?

"It's always unsettling when someone else decides your departure date" according to Executive Director of the Career Industry Council, Peter Tatham. "But with such obvious talent Kevin Rudd has a vast range of options". Peter Tatham said.

"Right now though, Kevin Rudd is very fortunate to have such a caring and supporting family around him," he said.

"It will provide him with a firm foundation for whatever he decides to do. And as he lives through the emotional roller coaster that this kind of change brings he needs to take time to reflect on his strengths, talents and achievements," Peter Tatham said.

It is almost unavoidable to have some negative self talk because leaving the job of Prime Minister is a challenge to that part of his identity associated with the role. "What I have learnt from my own experience of redundancy is that to make successful transition requires support, action and time out," said Peter Tatham.

President of CICA Bernadette Gigliotti noted "In our society, the work we do provides a perception of who we are and where we fit."

"It's a shorthand descriptor that tells little about our real selves and interestingly this is borne out by our closest friends and family who don't really mind what we do." she said.

That is why the Career Industry Council calls on the Australian government to make career transition services such as career counselling, resume or interview advice a compulsory and freely accessible part of all redundancies and retrenchments. A recent survey of 300 HR professionals by UK recruitment firm Hays found that access to effective career development services benefited employers and individuals and was likely to save the government money.

[#] ABS Labour Market Statistics 6105.0

While Kevin Rudd's confidence may have taken a short term hit he is now a man in charge of his own destiny once more and he remains in many ways a talent for the world stage. Perhaps he could make an even greater contribution than he did in his time as the leader of Australia during the global financial crisis.

Be kind to yourself Kevin. There is rich new ground to be explored and to do it well, is not easy but worth it.

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