

A strong voice for our future

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Lauga calls on Landry, Canavan to apologize to workers

Michelle Landry and Matt Canavan should apologise to hundreds of older Central Queensland workers who now face losing their job thanks to a flawed Federal Government employment scheme.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said the LNP duo got into bed with One Nation to stab thousands of older workers in the back for failing to make it illegal for employers to discriminate against older workers.

Ms Lauga called on Ms Landry and Senator Canavan to apologize to over 35 workers for supporting a bill which allows employers to sack over-35s and replace them with younger workers.

The JobMaker program dishes out \$200 a week for employers taking on jobless people under 30, and \$100 for people aged 30 to 35.

“This new legislation flies in the face of every fabric of social justice and Labor’s mantra to look after its workers.

“It’s classic discrimination in employment.”

Ms Lauga said on Tuesday, Labor secured the support of the Senate crossbench to amend the LNP’s JobMaker bill and make it illegal for employers to sack over-35s and replace them with younger workers.

“But less than 24 hours later One Nation senators Pauline Hanson and Malcolm Roberts backflipped - doing a secret deal with the LNP to kill off this important protection.

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“This means anyone who has a job could have their hours cut or even lose their job and be replaced by workers who receive the under-35 hiring credit.

“I've spoken personally to many local people who are over the age of 35 who are desperate for work, including Kristin from Koongal who I doorknocked during the election.

“Kristin was let go by her employer earlier this year as a result of COVID and has been desperate to find work ever since, but has been unable to so far.”

Ms Lauga said the Coalition's unfair, new legislation will make it even harder for workers over 35 years old like Kristin.

“Once again the LNP and One Nation have sold out older workers by refusing to make it illegal for employers to discriminate.”

Ms Lauga backed comments from Senator Murray Watt who slammed Pauline Hanson's decision.

“Before the Queensland election, Pauline Hanson told the elderly to “lock themselves away” so we could open the borders.

“Now, she's backing the LNP to let bosses sack older workers and replace them with subsidised, younger workers. Who will Pauline Hanson sell out next?” said Senator Watt.

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