

*I KNOW HOW HARD IT CAN GET IS A
MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION THAT
CHRONICLES UNEMPLOYMENT AND
WELFARE POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY
AUSTRALIA.*

A TRIAD OF CONFLICTING VOICES
STRIVE TO BOTH QUESTION
AND UPHOLD THE IDEOLOGICAL
CONVICTIONS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE
CURRENT JOBACTIVE PROGRAM.
I KNOW HOW HARD IT CAN GET
EXAMINES THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN AUTHORITY AND
AUTHENTICITY, CO-OPTATION AND
APPROPRIATION, AND SYMPATHY AND
CONTEMPT.

TAYLOR REUDAVEY: I KNOW HOW HARD IT CAN GET

8 SEPTEMBER- 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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Designed by DB

Cover image:
Taylor Reudaevy,
I Know How Hard It Can Get (install shot),
2017, Photo by Paul Sutherland

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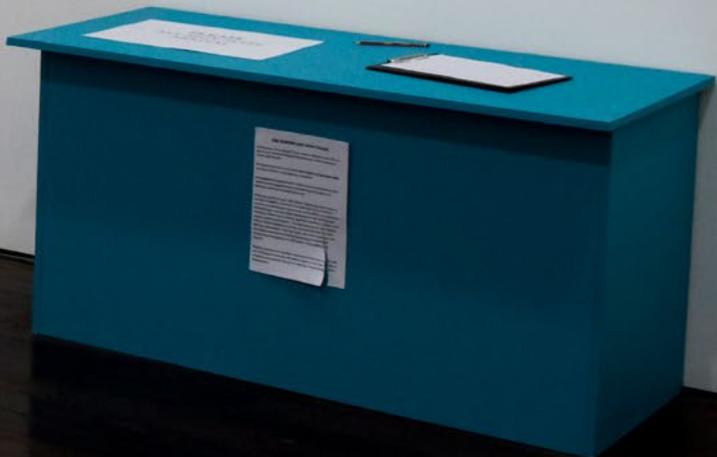
Multiple pages of text documents are displayed on the left wall, arranged in a grid pattern. Each page contains dense text and some graphical elements.



MICHAEL BARNES
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FACILITIES UNTIL YOUR
APPOINTMENT CAN SEE YOU**



I KNOW HOW HARD IT CAN GET

So I'm at work the other day and I get this email from Johnno. It says "Check this out. This is why the country's fucked" and there's this vimeo link to somethin' called *Bludger*. I've just got back from lunch but it's pretty quiet so I click on it.

The link is a doco about this chick who's on Centrelink, pretending to look for a job basically. The doco film maker dude is following her around and asking her questions about how her Centrelink payments work, and how she's going to stop living off the government. She does a lot of complaining about how her life is really hard, and there's no jobs, and the market's fucked and the mining boom blah blah blah. Unbelievable. Some people just don't man-up and accept the consequences of their own actions. Like get a job at Macca's or whatever. I swear if I wasn't working for Dad, and he didn't buy me a car and that, I'd still get a job at Woolies or what ever, even if I had to take the bus. Like I couldn't imagine not working at all. She's fuckin' scum.

Anyway so there's this bit in the doco where the chic's driving, shitty KIA, and she's like "yeh so you know it's at the end of the mining boom and it's hell tough" and the dude goes, "so if there were jobs on the mines you'd be set, like you'd go up and work right?" and she says "fuck no!" I almost fell out of my swivel chair. Actually, na I wasn't surprised. Classic bludger mate. I thought fuck I'm gonna send this to my mate Matto, I'm pretty sure he's up on site at the moment. Yeah Matto is on a 3 and 1 swing, reckons it's pretty tough, but you know it's good coin and the missus and his kid fly out to Bali to meet him on his week off sometimes. Actually I'll send him the link now, I can see he's on fb atm.

Anyway there's this other bit in the doco where the chic is walking in some park in Subi, and she's talking shit about how big the houses are and that, and the doco dude, who seems like he's got his head switched on, goes "well isn't that something to aspire to, these people have worked hard for ages and saved money and done something to better themselves" and the chic is like "oh yeh, but I don't want to live like that. I don't feel obligated to work hard." Fuck me. You serious? Some people think things just land in your lap. Like, Mum and Dad bought my place in Nedlands, but I'm payin 'em back you know? Dad said it was like a tax offset thing for them anyway.

Anyway there's heaps of times where the dude walks into her lounge or whatever and she's sitting on the couch doing fuck all, watching movies and that. She says that sometimes she doesn't feel like looking for work. Like why aren't you just applying for jobs all day? Get on seek and just apply for fucking everything?



Top: Taylor Reudavey, *Bludger*, 2017, Still from HD video 33:08

Bottom: Taylor Reudavey, *Bludger* (install shot), 2017, HD video 33:08, Photo by Paul Sutherland.

That's it though, hey, like these people don't wanna work hard, mate, they just want to sit around and smoke durries and have a good time. That reminds me I've been back for 15 minutes since lunch so could duck out for a quick one. Maybe I'll just leave a bit early this arvo.

Anyway she says she wants to get out of this situation she's in, and it's a priority, but she also prioritises "looking after herself." Well if you want to look after yourself, get a job doing something, like it doesn't have to be fun or fulfilling or enjoyable or what ever, work's not supposed to be fun –it shouldn't be fun! Like grow up. And just work hard. It's like what Joey Hockey used to talk about mate, it's up to everyone to pull their weight, and crack down on the cheats. Joe could spot a bludger. Went to a private school in Kirribilli, then to Sydney Uni - before you had to pay 'n' that. Worked hard all his life. We're a country of lifters, not leaners mate.

Me, I've never been unemployed a day in my life mate.
[Pauses].
Never worked a day in my life either!
[Laughs hysterically].

David Atwood

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David Attwood is an artist based in Melbourne.



Taylor Reudavey, *Lifters and Leaners*, 2017, still from HD video 08:02



Taylor Reudavey (b.1994) is a multimedia artist, writer and performer from Perth, Western Australia. She graduated from Curtin University with Honours in 2015 and has exhibited with The Hive Art Space, Free Range Gallery, the City of Perth's Grand Lane Light Locker Art Space, and the Victoria Park Centre for the Arts. She is currently the Artist in Residence at Curtin University's School of Design and Art and will be featured in Geraldton Regional Art Gallery's upcoming *WORLDLINE* exhibition. *I Know How Hard It Can Get* is her third solo show.

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I'd like to thank Jess Day, Paul Sutherland, Carly Lynch, Curtin's School of Design and Art, the AUWU, and the Australian taxpayer. Special thanks extend to the Moana team, Dave Attwood, Peter and Justine Reudavey, and my housemate and partner in crime, Graham Mathwin. Your unwavering support, advice and assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Newstart Allowance has not been raised for over twenty years. At \$260 per week, it sits well below the Australian poverty line. This show is dedicated to all those struggling to find employment, to pay their bills, to feed themselves, on such a meagre payment.

Taylor Reudavey

Taylor Reudavey, *Bludger*, 2017, Still from HD video 33:08

