



TITLE: 'Doing it really Tough': Jobless Households in Regional Australia.

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Abstract

North West Tasmania has experienced significant industry restructuring over the past fifteen years. The changes have had a disproportionate impact on male-dominated industries and have had major implications for the structure of the region's labour market and for employment opportunities for workers. Neoliberal approaches to understanding redundancy and employment have focused research on the individual characteristics and responses of retrenched workers. Regional development policies have tended to focus on intervention strategies within a regional labour market. To date there has been less focus on how households respond to redundancy and unemployment. This paper draws on four recent case studies of North West Tasmanian households coming to terms with the loss of their primary income source. It explores the social impact of redundancy, retrenchment and long-term unemployment on households within the dysfunctional labour market of the region.

Key Words: Deindustrialisation, region, jobless, households.