**Bosses won't hire over-50s, new report reveals**

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Discrimination in the workplace was stopping older workers from reaching their full potential. **ONE in 10 bosses won't hire a worker older than 50, an official survey shows.**

And half Australia's employers believe older workers are at higher risk of being made redundant, the Australian Human Rights Commission reveals in a new report today on age discrimination.

A third of the business leaders surveyed said older workers did "not like being told what to do" by someone younger, and were more forgetful.

And a fifth stated that older workers preferred not to use technology, had difficulty learning new things and did not want to work long hours.

Fifteen per cent said older workers "complain a lot'', and 11 per cent felt older workers were "grumpy or short-tempered''.

Women workers are more likely to feel discriminated against than men.

The survey found that one in five bosses would not encourage job applications from older workers. Two out of three workers aged between 55 and 64 said they had been turned down for a job, and 28 per cent had been refused a promotion. A third of the older people surveyed complained that they had been ignored or refused service in a shop.

"Older participants, particularly women, feel that retail settings are geared to the needs of younger consumers,'' the report says. "This is despite the fact that the older market often has a greater degree of discretionary spending power.''

Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan said discrimination in the workplace was stopping older workers from reaching their full potential. "It is vital we recognise that the growth in the number of older Australians provide significant and very real economic and social benefits and opportunities,'' she said.