

LETTERS

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HT Bank salary beggars belief

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Exercise 42

1. Describe the author's tone and feelings. What is their purpose?

I feel sick in the stomach when I think about the heartless actions of the HT Bank chiefs.

2. What type of question is it and what is its tone?

Can you believe that they received \$13 million in bonuses and salary over the past 12 months?

3. How are bank officials depicted and why?

This is the same bank that is seeking to look after its wealth — what is left of it — for the benefit of its shareholders by sacking hundreds, possibly thousands, of staff.

4. What is the purpose of these language choices?

And while these fat cats just keep getting fatter, we're the ones who have to tighten our belts. The scary part is that it is not unusual.

5. What does the survey prove?

According to the latest figures compiled by the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors the average fixed pay for managers is \$5 million a year — nearly 70 times the average salary. Also the medium fixed pay rate for CEOs in 2012 was the highest ever, growing 70 per cent faster than average wages.

6. What is the point of the comparison?

At the moment, there is significant anger in the postal community at the generous salary of Australia Post's boss, Ahmed Fahour, who is cutting up to 900 positions. In 2013, Fahour was paid \$4.75 million. Contrastingly, the CEO at Britain's Royal Mail was paid \$2.14 million and the US Postmaster received a lousy \$544,000.

7. Who does the author criticise and why?

How can they possibly justify such an enormous salary package in times of economic hardship? Everyone must "do the heavy lifting" says the Treasurer, but in many cases, it's the employees, who are battling to send kids to school, pay the mortgage and survive, who are getting regular "heavy-lifting" practice.

8. What is the purpose of the final appeal?

Just the slightest reduction of the pay rates of each of these super-managers would make all the difference to 1000 struggling families.

Our leaders must show some common decency and a sense of responsibility.



Choose two newspaper articles on a controversial topic.

1. What is the author's viewpoint?
2. What evidence does the author use and why?
3. Which words stand out and why?
4. Who does the author criticise and why?
5. What appeals are evident?