

Australian Human Rights Commission grants Disability Enterprises interim exemption

In response to the Government's application for both an interim and temporary exemption for the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) from elements of the Disability Discrimination Act, the Australian Human Rights Commission granted an interim exemption for a period of four months to Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs). A decision is yet to be made on the Government's application for a temporary 12-month exemption so AHRC is asking for submissions. We wish to state we ***strongly oppose*** any further government exemptions which results in thousands of workers in ADEs being denied a fair wage.

We were lucky enough to be in the court room the morning three High Court judges handed down their unanimous ruling that BSWAT is discriminatory for those with an Intellectual disability. Their verdict was music to our ears because justice had finally prevailed. Therefore we are deeply frustrated by the Commission's outrageous decision and do not understand why the government was granted an exemption in the first place. We thought the Commission fought against disability discrimination.

It is our understanding that tools based on productivity already are in existence. So why does the government need to provide \$173 million to help develop a new wage tool and to assist ADEs with their transition costs to a new tool?

What about the workers who have been under paid ?

The 173 million should go towards back paying the many people with disability who have been working in ADE's and getting under paid.

The question that must be asked is when will people working in ADE's get fairer wages?

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