

**REQUEST TO JOIN EXEMPTION APPLICATION LODGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS) UNDER S55 OF THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (1992) (CTH)**

I/We seek to join/support the exemption application submitted by DSS as follows:

- I/We seek a conditional one year extension of the exemption for all existing ADEs and the Commonwealth (and officers of the Commonwealth) from sections 15, 24 and 29 of the DDA, for a period of one year from the expiration of the current exemption on 29 April 2015.
- The proposed exemption would apply while alternative wage setting arrangements are implemented by ADEs that have not adopted a wage assessment tool other than the BSWAT.
- The proposed exemption would apply while alternative wage setting arrangements are being devised and/or established and implemented by DSS.

<b>NAME:</b>	Leonie Hogarth
<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	Mercy Community Services – Disability Services
<b>POSITION:</b>	Executive Director
<b>SIGNATURE:</b> By signing this document I certify that I have authority to sign on behalf of the organisation named above	

**COMMENTS**

We strongly support the application to extend the deadline for one year from the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 due to the time it takes to adequately and appropriately engage the supported employees, their families and the staff in understanding a new tool, creating the assessment documents, assessing the employees and implementing the new wage tool. Considerable time and work is required to meet this deadline, with resources being re-directed to assist, which is causing resources issues in other areas of the business.

