

Good evening

We are replying on behalf of James Humphries, our intellectually disabled adult son. We believe that 3 years to make the change from BSWAT to another system is too long. We appreciate that this cannot be done overnight but 3 years is excessive. We would have thought 18 months should be more than sufficient time and would be fairer to all concerned giving employers time to accommodate the changes and ensuring an appropriate rate of pay for people with a disability.

We note on page 9 of the Easy Read Version of "Having a Say About Using the BSWAT" it states that "People will not be able to complain that the BSWAT is unfair during this time". Can you please clarify if this means people cannot ask for different system to be used or if it mean that if a person is assessed using BSWAT they will be unable to complain about the outcome or challenge the outcome and ask for a review/re-assessment.

Whilst we appreciate the opportunity to reply and like the easy read document we notice with some irony that respondents had about 15 days to respond whereas the department is requesting 3 years to make a change of tool. We think that as some of the respondents will be intellectually disabled 15 days for a response is too short and that 30 days would have been appropriate in order to allow people time to make an informed reply.

Kind regards

Joe and Carol Humphries

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**From:** BSWAT [mailto:BSWAT@dss.gov.au]

**Sent:** Friday, October 18, 2013 2:14 PM

**To:** undisclosed-recipients:

**Subject:** Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) updates [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Sir or Madam

In response to the letter sent in August 2013 by Ms Laura Angus, Manager, BSWAT Employment Response Team, to supported employees of Australian Disability Enterprises, you asked to be kept updated about developments regarding the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT).

Ms Angus wrote again to all supported employees earlier this month giving current updates. The letter included an Easy English booklet providing information about how people can have a say regarding use of the BSWAT.

Please find attached a copy of the letter and the booklet for your information.

Additional information about the BSWAT can be found on the Department of Social Services website [here](#) and is also be published in disAbility e-news.

For your information, please also find attached an excerpt the October edition of disAbility e-news about the consultations held in July and August 2013 on the future of wage assessment in Australian Disability Enterprises. If you wish to receive disAbility e-news, you can subscribe [here](#).

If you have any further questions about these issues, please call **1800 880 052**.

*REGARDS*

*BSWAT EMPLOYMENT RESPONSE TEAM  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES*