

Submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission.

My son is 21 and works for a Disability Enterprise.

He earns \$1.70 per hour and works 20 hours per week. He enjoys his work and the social interaction.

He works hard physically, his carer took footage of him doing his daily jobs which includes gardening, car washing

and cleaning. I can see why he is tired when he gets home.

My son went through a BSWAT when he started work at 18, 3 years ago. He has made big gains in this time. He has learnt how to work and he is also much stronger than he was at 18.

An assessment that infrequently is not representative of his productivity.

He works 5 hours per day and only gets a 15 minute break in this time for lunch. Some days he doesn't get time to eat his lunch.

In one regard he is regarded as disabled and does not qualify for a decent wages , but he is not given more break time because of

his condition. Some carers employed by the ADE are on 457 visas and obviously don't have any experience working with disabled people.

They tell him to hurry up and eat his lunch and just want to get the work finished for the day.

He is on a Disability support pension so he does have money but he will spend his life on welfare . The Australian Government is

providing money for his support but is also providing money to the Disability Enterprise to employ him.

He talks about how hard he has been working but I don't have the heart to tell him he only earns \$1.70 per hour. Even he knows how little that is !

I enquired if he could obtain literacy instruction through the ADE but was told it would cost \$38 per hour. Who can afford that ?

The ADEs need to be audited. They are supposedly not for profit but they have big job contracts and could be passing more on to their employees.

I appreciate that ADEs exist because everyone needs to work . My son would be bored if he didn't have a job to go to and other people to interact with . I don't want them to be

unsustainable but why does it take 3 years to get a better system of assessment ? There must be tools used in other countries, I'm sure we don't have to reinvent the wheel ! Would

3 years to improve a faulty system be acceptable in any other industry ? People with disabilities deserve better treatment , they don't have a voice in this and that is why this

system has been accepted for this long.

yours sincerely,

Georgina Johnson