

27th October 2013

Legal Section,
Australian Human Rights Commission,
GPO Box 5218,
Sydney. NSW 2001

Dear Sir /Madam,

I am writing to you as the mother of a son (Ian Vlasveld) who has been employed at Oakleigh Centre Industries since August 2012.

My husband and I have been concerned about the low rate of pay which Ian has received as a result of the initial BSWAT assessment tool. I agree totally that the BSWAT tool needs to be investigated and another fairer tool be found to give those people employed in Australian Disability Enterprises a fairer wage and one that reflects the effort and time put in and not be seen as slave labour. And encouragement in terms of a pay rise when they have shown improvement in their assessment.

As part of Ian's independent living strategies, he has been able to move out of home and live in his own subsidised accommodation owned by Port Phillip Housing and be closer to his workplace. But it is a financial struggle with much assistance from us (and we are both pensioners)as well).

The BSWAT tool is not a fair assessment tool and we welcome a change but not at a great disadvantage to the workers while it is being done. They must be able to be assessed regularly until a new tool is found and implemented. Things cannot be put on hold while the new tool is brought into operation. They cannot be left in limbo. Their wage is low and they must have the chance to increase their hourly rate following an assessment. Better to continue with a poor assessment tool than no assessment tool at all in the interim.

Therefore, we fully support the application by the Department of Social Services with the Australian Human Rights Commission to ask that the BSWAT can be used to work out wages for a time limited period.

Sincerely,

Kaylene and Wilhelmus (Bill) Vlasveld

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