


REQUEST TO JOIN EXEMPTION APPLICATION LODGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS (FaHCSIA) UNDER S55 OF THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (1992) (CTH)

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

- I/We seek an exemption for all existing ADEs from sections 15 and 24 of the DDA, and the Commonwealth (and officers of the Commonwealth) from section 29 for a period of three years.
- This exemption would apply to use of the BSWAT to:
 - (a) assess wages for employees; and
 - (b) pay wages to ADE employees based on assessments conducted under the BSWAT.
- The proposed exemption would apply while alternative wage setting arrangements are being considered, devised and/or established and implemented by FaHCSIA.

NAME:	Bernie O'Connor
ORGANISATION:	Woodbine Inc.
POSITION:	Chief Executive Officer
SIGNATURE: By signing this document I certify that I have authority to sign on behalf of the organisation named above	

COMMENTS

Woodbine provides supported employment for 31 people with a disability in Warracknabeal, a small town in the Wimmera, Victoria. ADEs are simply not profitable, particularly in rural and remote regions. Woodbine's supported employment is provided as valued opportunities to people with a disability and as a service to the community. Commonwealth funding is supplemented by the agency to ensure continuity. Without additional assistance and consideration of **all the circumstances that apply to ADE's**, the employment program will either cease or hours will be reduced to ensure viability.