

As a worker with a number of disabilities, both physical and psychiatric, I am very concerned about the plan to force 80% of Disability Employment Services to tender in order to remain in operation. I am employed as an Employment Support Consultant with the team at Break Thru People Solutions in Maroubra.

My employer, aware of my disabilities, and after a lengthy period of hospitalisation during my employment, has been wonderfully accommodating, allowing me to work flexibly and taking my needs into account in every respect. I very much doubt, at the age of 50, with multiple health issues, that I will find new employment should my current position become redundant.

My primary concern however is for my clients. Over a period of 15 years in the service of clients in the Disability Employment Service, via C.A.R.E. Employment, Break Thru People Solutions and TAFE 'Outreach' I have invested an enormous amount of time, effort and personal resources into developing relationships with my clients. Many of my clients, particularly the many individuals suffering from anxiety disorders and intellectual disabilities, understandably find it very difficult to trust and relate to new consultants or trainers and will have great difficulty adapting to new counselors and environments. This will certainly have a major impact on their health, reliability and employability.

For my client's sake, my own and my family's I pray that this plan is reconsidered and that continuity of both service and employment for so many people with disabilities is protected.

Thank You

Yours sincerely