

19 September 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: The administration and purchasing of Disability Employment Services in Australia

I would like to address the impact that it would have on me and my job searching should SensWide Employment need to retender for their contracts.

SensWide currently help me by providing the following:

- Use of a computer, the internet and a phone
- A printer is easily accessible
- It's within close proximity to my home
- Assisted me to get a hearing aid voucher and then hearing aids.
- A friendly and helpful environment (all staff)
- Information to other services which are very useful.

My employment consultant has also provided me with valuable help with my job searching and support. He has enabled me to think outside the square and offered me different options. I'm always able to ask him questions, even when they may not be related to job searching or job support. The staff is very approachable and 'on hand' whenever I need anything.

The impact of SensWide closing or reducing would be quite significant to me as a client. I would no longer have access to the internet or phone, which would be at a great cost to me. SensWide make it accessible and I feel comfortable here, I don't feel that I would find this at another service. Not only do they assist me to find work, their one on one training and support helps me with my job searching so that I am able to do it on my own. More importantly the professional and personal level of service that I receive would be sorely missed.

I know there are other DES providers that I could register with, but the continuity of the service is important to me. I'm sure many other clients feel the same way – we don't want to have to start again with another provider.

Sincerely

Francesca Waters