

## **Terms of Reference for the Senate Inquiry on the administration and purchasing of Disability Employment Services in Australia**

The administration and purchasing of Disability Employment Services (DES) in Australia, with particular reference to the Government's 2011-12 budget announcement to undertake a competitive tender of the Disability Employment Services – Employment Support Services program for contracts with a performance rating of three stars and below under the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' DES Performance Framework, including:

- a. the impact of tendering more than 80 percent of the current DES on the clients with disability and employers they support under the current contracts;

*The client's Break Thru Taree serve are very wary of any change in the way the service has changed over the past 18 months. To put out to tender 80% of sector seems to make no sense. The client's are in a very marginalised group and are vulnerable to change. Many of the voluntary client's would simply fall between the cracks. If the tendering process does go ahead the government will have to responsibility for a service that no longer has the client's best interest at hear.*