

Dear Sir/Madam

As a mother of an autistic child I am concerned about current employment standards for the disabled. My child can not write properly he is by no means stupid and receives A scores on verbal assignments yet when he faces the workforce he risks being paid lower than average wages.

Because of this Government's current practices in allowing the disabled to be exploited by employers our children deserve the same wages and treatment that other employees receive.

The disabled are not lesser people give them back their rights.

I reside in echuca Victoria which has a large proportion per population of disabled persons at the present time there are approx.316 disabled youth between the ages of 15 -20 who cannot obtain employment in this area even though they know what they want to do. Please do not allow the Senate to believe that their rights or acceptance has improved people may be more tolerant in country towns but prejudices still exist. These people have multiskills and a patience to succeed in the workplace yet when they obtain employment it's quite often mundane employment not matching their abilities. I too are unemployed with qualifications yet if there was a choice to choose a disabled person over me I would give them the chance. I do volunteer work for the young disabled.

The government should expand their making a difference program not just funding wise but by showing the way and recognising everyone has different needs.

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