

Dear Senator Knowles

I support the submission lodged by Paul Cain Consumer Representative on QA Working Party.

I have worked in the disability field for 10 years and know we need a massive change to the unethical and hap hazzard way the management of Sheltered workshops operate.

The submission lodged by Niki Sheldon, Mara Pacers, Paul Cain Caucus Representatives Quality Assurance and Standards Working Party aims to directly address the issue of employment rights as recommended by the Selection of Bills Committee:

"To consider whether this legislation will safeguard the basic employment rights of people with disabilities, and to examine the concerns with the level of standards of the draft set of key performance indicators, and in particular, the ability to address the current non-compliance; issues of the development of the QA system; and the issue of those people, primarily with an intellectual disability, who are employed under inappropriate employment terms and conditions, in non-viable business enterprises, which result in poor wages and institutionalisation."

While I am greatly concerned over non-viable business enterprises, I question the huge profits made from exploiting the people with disabilities in the Sheltered Workshops.

We may in years to come be accused of propping up sweatshops.

Kind regards
Janette Reedman