From: Paul Clune
To: Michelle Lindley
Subject: Re: Equal pay for the disabled? [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]
Date: Monday, 7 March 2016 12:22:27 PM

Hello again and good morning Michelle
As per the attached, Mitch is: "not your average bear"
Firstly the deformity of her feet in the photo of her with her elder sister's dog is reasonably clear
Secondly her penetrating stare at elder son Stephen during his screeching voice delivery after he'd breathed in a lung-full of helium gas to the hilarious joy of his three siblings (around 1992)
Thirdly the second degree burns caused by boiling water thrown over her whilst in the full time care of the ACTIV Foundation
And lastly of her at home after surgery in 2004 removed both nails from her big toes because of worse than useless treatment for ingrown toenails by an 'expert' ACTIV had referred her to

So as mentioned, Mitch is not your "Average bear."....but she has affected the characters of most people with whom she has interacted - for the better.

Rgds
PPC

On 07-Mar-16 8:32 AM, Michelle Lindley wrote:

> Dear Paul
> Thank you for you very moving submission.
> Regards
> Michelle
>
> **Michelle Lindley**
> Deputy Director
> Legal Section
>
> **Australian Human Rights Commission**
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>
> **Human rights: everyone, everywhere, everyday**
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Paul Clune [mailto:paulpclune@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Saturday, 5 March 2016 8:51 PM
> **To:** Chantal Tanner <Chantal.Tanner@humanrights.gov.au>; Michelle Lindley <Michelle.Lindley@humanrights.gov.au>
> **Subject:** Equal pay for the disabled?

Hello Chantal and Michelle

Thanks for the letter dated the 3rd of March 2016

As per my previous note, our daughter Michelle was born in 1975 with Jacobsen syndrome and worked in the open workplace for 2 days per week for some 25 years courtesy of Intework - but was recently sacked by Intework - so she has no job.
She used to work for one day per week standing up and another day per week sitting down.

What underwrote her sacking was Intework's inability to find her non standing work because Michelle can no longer stand all day due to the deterioration of her feet - and Intework could not find her work for two day's per week in a job other than standing one full day per week.

As to Michelle's rate of pay - it is nonsensical to expect open work employers to pay heavily disabled people the identical pay as fully able bodies workers.

Working in open workplace jobs is diametrically contrasted from working in sheltered workshops....where Michelle spent about 3 weeks some ten years ago via the ACTIV Foundation - which charged her a daily fee for working there !

And yes it was a complete flop - so she went back to working via Intework @ Mario's Lunch bar in Canning Vale.

Various 'help' sources are trying to organise her to spend time recreating - which is quite detrimental to her life because the huge thing that motivates Michelle is to know she is useful!

So please - if there is anything you can do to get her back into the open workplace - everyone involved will benefit greatly.

And how do I know that?

Because when she worked at Mario's Lunch Bar, Mario relayed what effect her working for him had on all involved as follows (I paraphrase):
'I was surprised when Intework approached me to employ a very disabled person - so I asked my Mother for her opinion because I recalled she had a disabled sister back in the 1950s who spent her life confined to an attic - and my Mother's vehement order was: "DO IT!" - so I did. Then everything at work changed because before Michelle came and worked here, my staff and I had the traditional: "Them Vs. us....poor workers Vs. rich business owner .....Lazy wingers Vs. high risk private enterprise business" opposing unspoken attitudes - which absolutely vanished within a week of Michelle working here.
There we were winging about each other - then we watched this woman who could hardly walk and talk shuffling around just doing things without a whiff of complaint - so we just told each other's silent minds to: "Wake Up ya stupid bastards and thank God for what you've got!" - which transformed the business into a pleasant, joyful place where we all shut the

hell up and pitched in to do things all day every day properly and helpfully - without a thought or word of complaint.'

So there you have it ladies....please do what you can to get Mitch (that's her nickname) back into a standard workplace - but not ever at the same rate of pay as able bodied people.

Adios
Rgds
PPC
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08 93 97 97 97

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