**REQUEST TO JOIN EXEMPTION APPLICATION LODGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF   
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS (FaHCSIA)   
UNDER S55 OF *THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT* (1992) (CTH)**

INVe seek to join/support the exemption application submitted by FaHCSIA as follows:

* IM/e seek an exemption for all existing ADEs from sections 15 and 24 of the DDA, and the Commonwealth (and officers of the Commonwealth) from section 29 for a period of three years.
* This exemption would apply to use of the BSWAT to:

1. assess wages for employees; and
2. pay wages to ADE employees based on assessments conducted under the BSWAT.

* The proposed exemption would apply while alternative wage setting arrangements are being considered, devised and/or established and implemented by FaHCSIA.

NAME: Anthony J Bennett

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| ORGANISATION: | | | | |  | Nambucca Valley Phoenix Ltd |
| POSITION: | | | |  |  | Manager |
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| SIGNATURE: By signing this document I certify that I have authority to sign on behalf of the organisation named  above |  |
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**COMMENTS**

The recent High Court decision effectively terminating the wage assessments with a competency component is having huge negative effects on small ADE such as ours which is located in a high unemployment, low socio-economic Local Government Area. The decision has effectively doubled the hourly rate which, with poor opportunities for work, reduce the hours offered with a resultant demoralisation of the supported employees.