

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)

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

- I/We 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:
 - (a) assess wages for employees; and
 - (b) 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
ORGANISATION:	Nambucca Valley Phoenix Ltd
POSITION:	Manager
SIGNATURE: By signing this document I certify that I have authority to sign on behalf of the organisation named above	<i>AJ Bennett</i>

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.