



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

MC13-010923

Mr Bob Buckley
cnvnr@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your email of 29 October 2013 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, expressing concern about the treatment of people with disability. Your email was referred to the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, as this matter falls within his portfolio responsibilities. The Minister has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

As you will know, the Disability Support Pension is an income support payment for people with a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment who are unable to fully support themselves through paid work.

The Government understands the importance of maintaining an adequate safety net for those who cannot provide for themselves. The Government is looking at our system of social security to ensure that there is a balance between the incentive to work and the well-being of the individual.

The current debate about the most appropriate settings for pensions will assist the Government to make well informed decisions about how it can best reduce debt, ensure expenditure is sustainable and support people to work.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allyson Essex', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Allyson Essex
Branch Manager
Disability and Carers Payments Policy

16 December 2013