



SENATOR THE HON. ERIC ABETZ
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

9 APR 2014

Mr Bob Buckley
Convenor
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia
cnvnr@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your email of 25 February 2014 concerning the labour force participation and employment of people with disability, particularly those with autism spectrum disorder.

The Coalition Government understands the importance of maintaining an adequate safety net for people with permanent disability who cannot fully provide for themselves through paid work, however, those who can work should do so. We are committed to helping people who are capable of work to move from welfare to work as soon as possible. The Government provides a range of employment programmes and incentives to help job seekers get and keep a job.

The Government is looking at our system of social security, including the Disability Support Pension, to ensure that there is a balance between the incentive to work and the wellbeing of the individual. The Hon. Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Social Services, has appointed Mr Patrick McClure AO to chair a Reference Group to provide advice on ensuring Australia's welfare system is sustainable, effective and coherent and encourages people to work. This advice will inform the work of the review.

As these matters do not strictly fall within my portfolio as Minister for Employment, I would encourage you to follow up these issues with the relevant Ministers.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', written over the printed name.

ERIC ABETZ