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Dear Sir / Madam

**Western Australia Disability Services Commission – Submission to the National Disability Employment Framework Consultation**

The WA Disability Services Commission welcomes the opportunity to comment on the development of a National Disability Employment Framework. A submission, based on areas identified in the Issues Paper, is attached.

People with disability have a life-long capacity for learning, development and contribution through working. Secure, meaningful employment is a key factor in ensuring economic participation and maximising opportunities for people to live well and feel valued in their community, whether or not the person has a disability.

Employment is a priority area in the National Disability Strategy 2012-2020 and also in Count Me In, WA’s strategy for the future of people with disability. Currently, around 112,000 West Australians with disability are in the workforce, with around 8,000 seeking work. Of the 112,000 West Australians with disability in the workforce 11,000 are people with profound or severe core activity limitation. The Commission supports an integrated approach to disability employment services that supports both the prospective employees and employers to achieve sustainable and rewarding employment.

In WA, the comparative trials of the National Disability Insurance Agency model and the WA NDIS My Way model are informing the operational planning for the future of the NDIS in WA. The National Disability Employment Framework principles align with the NDIS principles, which include choice and control, flexibility, individualised funding, person-centred planning, capacity building and coordination across and between services.

The Commission looks forward to the Discussion Paper including more detail about the options and proposals for the revised Framework, and how employment services may work in the future.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ron Chalmers

Director General

Disability Services Commission

10 July 2015

Att.