Submission for consideration:

Currently ADE’s and individuals are being impacted by the diverse requirements to gain ADE funding through the NDIS.

This has placed financial restrictions on how a business operates and any growth that has a possibility of occurring.

Suggestions that came out of the “Future of Supported Employment” forum were that employers should have the ability to access NDIS funding from the potential supported employees CORE funding, however if they don’t have any CORE funding available then this is not an option.

A suggestion that I am putting forward is that DSS provides the funding under Case Based Funding until a review or funding from the NDIS is allocated. Presently it can take up to 6 months for a review, which impacts on the company and individual. Companies have and will continue to lose prospective supported employees during these extensive waiting times.

The NDIS provides support which is deemed reasonable and necessary however the waiting period to gain employment is unrealistic and should be made available immediately without the required review process.

With the current eligibility requirements to gain DSS funding for individuals not receiving NDIS funding:

* Not currently going through the planning process
* Live outside the NDIS support area
* Receiving DSP or be eligible
* Apply and gain written approval from the Department of Social Services

has made it difficult in gaining supported employees who can met these requirements.

Individuals that wish to transfer from one ADE to another who are currently receiving Case Based Funding have to apply for the NDIS, with a process time of up to 6-12 weeks and in some cases longer.

The current processes surrounding ADE’s and supported employment is failing and not in line with the NDIS or the individuals focus of EMPLOYMENT.

Not only are supported employees the only employees in Australia that buy support for a job but also have to endure extensive wait times to gain this employment which impacts on their health and wellbeing.

Gaining short term funding from DSS would support the individuals requirements to gain ADE funding. This would contribute to the evidence the NDIS requires, that one has to be associated with an ADE and ensures that the goals and aspirations of the individual are met.

**Summary Barriers to gaining supported employment.**

* Waiting times to access NDIS funding
* Eligibility requirements to gain Case Based Funding
* Process times for NDIS reviews

**Proposal/Recommendation**

 Short term funding, whilst navigating difficult and complex systems, that enable the individual to access employment immediately.

**Outcome**

Employment!