**DES into the future**

**Hello my name is Carolyn, im 57 year old women with an amputation of my right lower leg. I have done 2 diplomas and up until my operation I had a full time job and having your leg chopped off has no effect on your brain power, I would like to see Disability employment services employ people with some people that have experience working woth disabled persons. the current staff mostly have no idea what they are talking about and continue with the spin that they have been taught to say, always positive and the ones I’ve had, I could tell them statistics about the state of job keeper—des—work for the dole but they went on being happy and condescending and fake. God knows they couldn’t say how bad they treat people and what they are doing to people’s mental health. Being dragged in to the agency to tick a box and let go home again, with not much change of any real help.I have now found a good one that have been helpful and understanding soon I may have a job.**

**First of all Most DES agencies are not fit for purpose but participants are not aware of this because they all promise to make your life better, help you find a job all written in there great flyers and adds that promise the world but really offer nothing of substance except a ride on a roundabout that goes nowhere. They all say that the can promote you out to business’s but I had to go to afew berfore I found one that actually did that. I spent so much time applying for jobs, doing silly assessments that work out for you “apparently” what your strengths are, answering questions like where I would like to work. A place where the only job I could possibly do in my state could be admin (which I have never done in my life), seeing I can’t walk and that’s the best place to stick someone who’s legs don’t work so good. Over here in Tasmania you can only study with Alfie on line and the course was so dumbed down you really couldn’t fail if you wanted to I thought I’d gone back to kindergarten. DES agencies should support the their local TAFE, for training so the students are support in their own community with a real person not some dumbed down on line course. I wouldn’t employ someone who has studied with Alffie.**

**In reality I was and still am in a way a disability support worker that worked for the government for ten years and then continued on working for and NGO when the government contracted out their disability services operations.**

**The first problem I encountered when I became disabled was finding a provider, there are so many out their that all promise them same service that they do not have the resourses to fulfill them. There are not enough jobs mainly I think because jobs for disabled persons need creating not enough part time jobs employees that don’t see the benefit of employing us, the built space where I don’t fit into the building or cannot even get inside barriers to employment in the job add in seek ect, the job add sounds good until you get past the first couple of line it says part time but in reality that part-time job is 35 hours a week (nearly full time) or is part time and 7.5 hours a week which does not satisfy the government because you have been accessed as being able to work 15 hours and must try to get a job that offers these hours anything less will find you looking for another job to make up the hours. (Why isn’t getting your foot in the door good enough?) in a competitive environment where there are very little opportunities you should be praised for getting some job not told that if you get that you will have to find something else. If there was the actual hours you were required to work you could work out if you could work out how to get there time wise, wheather your body could cope with those hours, work out what supports and when you so you can organizes your day. For example Im with the NDIS and have money in my core supports budget to employ someone to take me to work and bring me home but without detailed information I cannot organize any of this. Regular hours would also help because transport from a support worker is scheduled and is set up to work on a set time and day so casual on call or when needed jobs are no good. These thing need to be thought of. Many times I have seen a job and thought I can do that but find out it is casual on call and cant guarantee that I could be there The job ad does not provide enough information like accessibility are there ramps, lifts, will I fit in the work space? Accessible toilets? The world is not built for us any way so funding should be available to every business to improve thing on a whole for everyone, I find it a bit insulting that in order to be employed businesses have to be paid off to employ me. I like everybody else should be employed because of my ability. Most job adds include the word must have a license or a car where there is no obvious need for these thing in the job description in my mind the advertiser should have to say why theses thing are needed, is it just to get to work? Is it an essential requirement? I still have to apply for 8 jobs a month but even my current agency focuses on one or two words- admin- assistant admin but not the body of the position description. Yes most of the first few thing im fine with but because I have never worked in admin all the jobs have experience with such and such and such and when I say no he still wants me to apply its just a waste of my time but I do it anyway because it ticks off another box in that 8 job I have to apply for or else I don’t get paid.**

**Volunteer work is a great idea as this will help get people used to working help them socialize get them familiar with the processes they use in the workplace etc. But unfortunately volunteer work like work for the dole is mainly slave labor working in second hand shops doing meaning less task that do not enhance the person esteem, teach them new skills or supply them with a certificate that can add to enhance their job search efforts and improve there resume. Having something like a mentoring program that could provide on the job training for those who can participate.**

**Disability services has never been one size fits all so seeing that all DES providers are all the same for a range of very different clients that are all allowed a half hour appointment to have their job search number looked at check in to make sure you are jumping through the hoops and sent home for a fortnight. I had to go through 4 different DES agencies to find one that actually did anything they would not organize and pay for a police check or first aid certificate they insisted that I had to wear work shoes that they thought were correct footwear which they would have been if I had normal feet and did not require supportive soft shoes so my feet did not sustain any more damage from ill-fitting inappropriate shoes that I could not walk in.**

**As a** mature age person with a disability who used to work in disability I found the staff mostly did not know enough about anything and treated me like I was two. until I became disabled held down a very responsible job. Most of the people I worked with were 30 years younger than me, did not have any experience in disability or the role that they were undertaking. There have been many jobs for job coaches but there was no way I was going to apply because statistic say that life is hard for disabled people to find a job in the first place and DES places are so happy and encouraging and won’t even contemplate the reality of the situation. I could not do there job because I couldn’t go to work and dismiss peoples real concern.

**This has nothing to do with DES but my son does work for the dole where they do hard work moving rocks building walls, real work that does need doing to our community But when trees had to be chopped down to make way for the walls and the bridge being built the participants were sent home while the council came in and cut down the trees, I don’t understand how this is teaching them anything seeing you have to get a certificate for everything these day teach them to do these thing help them get a cert and give them a part time job with a pay rate linked to experience which goes up as they learn and pass. To me this is a no brainer, the work needs doing! They need the extra workers to get things done. These people are unemployed it’s not brain surgery. But instead the company who take on the unemployed to work for the dole get paid for every person they sign on to their books while the people doing the work get paid nothing learn skills are not recognized in a formal way still don’t get a job and remain unemployed. Sound like a third world county exploiting the poor.**

**Conclusion**