The system does require an overhaul. The sector is failing to meet the needs of students with disabilities (SWD). It makes promises it doesn’t keep e.g. here is a School Based Traineeships (SBT) we are your legal employer then the company goes into liquidation and leaves the SWD student devastated and unsupported. These companies need to be made accountable. The star rating excel document for DES providers is useless. The Department of Social Services needs to provide easily available transparent data that displays how many SWD have SBT including numbers per company started and number completed. This data should be available to stakeholders (parents, schools, employer's). SWD SBT’s need to be Certificates II's. The Cert III's SBT require maturity and good literacy and numeracy skills SWD sometimes take longer to gain these skills.

SWD need a bigger variety of work experience from year 9 to trial a few different jobs (school isn't for everyone). So, an easily accessible data base per education region listing employers who are willing to take on SWD for work experience is essential, rather than each school reinventing the wheel. SWD students need regular and ongoing on the job support throughout their SBT most of the DES companies provide this but the model that we have had the most success with has been fortnightly visits.

SWD require assistance from the RTO (one on one or small groups) to complete the modules (DAAWS funding). We have had more success with this being carried out at school during lesson times. Without this funding the SWD with an SBT are being set up for failure. Many of the DES providers talk the talk but don't walk the walk. Below is just one of the communications received from a parent recently.

*Just wanted to touch base with you with XXXX'X apprenticeship appointments etc with XXXX XXXXXXX.*

*So after our conversation was it two weeks ago? With regards to getting a few days for that construction business wanting to give XXXX a go.*

*Well, today XXXX turned up for his 2:30pm appointment and they did not know who he was or what was going on with him and what they need to do for him. They asked us to organize driving lessons for them to help with funding and they have not looked in to it since XXXX gave them the driving school details*

*It feels like it’s a complete waste of time going there.*

*Sorry to burden you with this*

I spend a majority of my time following up DES/RTO/Legal Employer’s/Work Experience Providers trying to make it work for all and get a positive outcome and sustainable employment for our senior students transitioning from school.