

While I am not intellectually disabled, I have been on the Disability Support Pension for almost my entire adult life and have had limited employment opportunities in that time so I think my viewpoint is valuable. I address question 2 - supported employment needs to be evidence-based.

People with disability deserve high quality evidence, to the same standard in medicine and psychology – that means randomised controlled trials!

My request is simple, stop making claims about effectiveness of any interventions when there is no evidence base. The government needs to start funding trials to address this knowledge deficit.

Making recommendations that affect the lives of many thousands of people without a genuine evidence base is terrible policy!

Those who are involved in running supported employment services/Australian Disability Schemes and family members of participants often make claims about the effectiveness of these schemes. Specifically well being of participants but these claims are subject to a variety of biases (such as conflict of interest) and there is generally a lack of alternative interventions for comparison.

There seems to be an inherent ideological assumption that these employment schemes are inherently good, despite disparate outcomes and risks of harm such as bullying. But the fact is that no one has compared these schemes to other non-employment interventions that may have similar cost to the taxpayer or community that may provide greater benefits to the well-being of participants. The ideological end goal should not employment, but increased well being of people with disability!

The working paper stated in Recommendation 7.17 – Develop education and training resources for Disability Employment Services staff: **"The Centre for Inclusive Employment will develop best practice, evidence-based information"**

The problem is that there is no high quality evidence base. Evidence-based medicine or evidence-based psychology means randomised controlled trials which are designed to control for as many biases as possible. Trials are not difficult to run, there is no excuse not to have them!

There are no such studies of effectiveness of supported employment/social enterprises under the ADE scheme. The often cited 2020 narrative review (Fostering employment for people with intellectual disability: the evidence to date) found that the only evidence base was for "Individual Placement and Support", and it was international evidence.

While I strongly support the gathering of feedback such as the "easy-read-part-1-questions", such responses need to inform the design of a variety trials and actually be tested before they can become recommendations. In particular, the feedback from non-disabled people may be subject to a variety of biases that needs rigorous testing to eliminate the bias.

If the government moves forward making recommendations without a high quality evidence base, it just shows that the government does not actually care about whether the putative outcomes for disabled people are genuine or not!

The solution is simple – the government needs to fund a variety of independent randomised trials to test the claims about effectiveness being made before recommendations are made, given the thousands of lives that are effected!

