



COMMUNITY EMPLOYERS WA



2 May 2014

Hon Kate Doust MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Transmitted via email: unileg@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Kate,

RE: Inquiry into Disability Services Amendment Bill 2014

The purpose of this submission is to provide Community Employers WA's (CEWA) comments on the proposed Disability Services Amendment Bill 2014.

CEWA is a registered Employer Organisation with the Industrial Relations Commission of Western Australia, and represents non-government, not-for-profit employers in the community services sector of Western Australia. CEWA now has 125 members comprising many of the largest and smaller Community Services Sector employers in WA, and continues to grow in numbers and influence. Our members employ in excess of 10,000 staff and are supported by over 10,000 volunteers.

CEWA appreciates that the objective of the Bill is to establish a mechanism for comparison of the State and Commonwealth trial sites as part of the rollout of NDIS. As an employer representative body for the Community Services Sector, we are keen to ensure that the mechanism supports the sustainability of services.

One of the important facets of NDIS is the inclusion of Mental Health. Whilst there are positives in doing so, CEWA remains keen to ensure that a commensurate level of resourcing and funding is also provided to enable the provision of appropriately supported services to this important cohort of people in need.

In particular, it will be beneficial to have comparative evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the two models and this should be reflected in Part 26(D). Linked to this is the importance of

including specific reference to Mental Health to ensure that it isn't simply ignored in the evaluation process. We understand that a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between DSC and the MHC, and it may be appropriate to review this when considering the wording of the legislation.

CEWA members have expressed to us a strong desire that the My Way trials are fully considered as part of the evaluation process, and the wording of the legislation will be a key means in achieving that intent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bouffler', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Bouffler
Executive Director