



The Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small Business

Our Ref: 29-21904

WA STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

SUPPLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRALIAN DISABILITY ENTERPRISES

I am writing to seek your support to promote State Government agencies within your portfolio purchasing goods and services from Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) to supply the needs of Government.

As you are aware, people with disabilities experience a range of restrictions in daily living and when participating in family, community, recreational and work activities that impact on their quality of life. For these people, having a job provides more than a wage – it is a doorway to engagement in community life, enhanced feelings of self-worth and the promotion of citizenship.

In recognition of these benefits and the potential for government procurement to improve the employment prospects of people with disabilities, the Government amended the State's procurement policy to enable government agencies to purchase directly from ADEs without the need to tender, providing the service or product represents fair value.

ADEs employ in excess of 2,000 people with a range of disabilities and provide services including environmental management, property care, ground maintenance and gardening, printing, sophisticated metal fabrication and woodcraft, document storage and destruction, recycling, checking of security, electrical, and safety equipment, packaging and light assembly and bench work. They are planning to move into laundry services, catering, transport, storage and waste collection and disposal. All ADE services are required to meet National Disability Services Standards and are independently audited and certified.

Earlier this year, the Minister for Disability Services, Hon Helen Morton MLC announced that Workpower (a disability employment organisation) had been awarded a *Social Innovation Grant* of \$310,000 to roll out a two-year pilot program to develop and evaluate employment strategies to create at least 100 new jobs and enrich the quantity and quality of work available to the 2,000 plus employees of ADEs.

This will involve looking at WA Government procurement policy and how it can be applied to provide ADEs with greater opportunity. The Department of Finance is participating in this study and has appointed a specialist disability procurement officer to encourage agencies and to provide a link between agencies and the ADE network.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could encourage agencies within your portfolio to consider the wider benefits of engaging ADEs in Government service delivery, and to take advantage of the measures that have been put in place to streamline the engagement process.

The success of this venture will contribute a great deal by providing meaningful and rewarding work for people with disabilities – as well as providing Government with reliable providers of quality goods and services,

For more information on engaging ADEs, agencies should contact the Department of Finance, Government Procurement on (08) 6551 1500.

Your support of this Initiative will be greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon O'Brien', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon O'Brien MLC
MINISTER FOR FINANCE

15 OCT 2012