



19th November 2023  
Hon Clare O'Neil, MP  
Member for Hotham  
Dear Ms. O'Neil,

I would like to introduce [REDACTED] NDIS participant, who has barriers in finding employment due to mental health issues. [REDACTED] is a professional Chartered Electrical and Communications engineer. He is seeking the assistance to find some unpaid work that fits for his professional background. He has shared some of his experiences with me.

[REDACTED] says "I have been trying to find work during the last 11 years. Job search has been very difficult due to my high functioning Autism. Whenever I found a job, I have always worked well without any concerns or issues. It is hard for me to follow the recruitment process that comes with employment. When I engage in a job search, I become unwell resulting mental breakdown and hospitalisation. I have tried to convince recruiters my barriers through statutory framework but unfortunately there is a limit I can go. Engaging in legal process triggers mental breakdown".

[REDACTED] had to stop his dream jobs in 2007 due to severe mental health issues that resulted in a breakdown for [REDACTED]. Since then, [REDACTED] has not received adequate support from Disability Employment Service-DES. [REDACTED] says, "DES does not support find professional kind of work". He submitted his concerns to federal parliament in 2015. The attached submission and the extracts of report are in:

[\[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Education\\_and\\_Employment/Smallbusiness\\_employment/Submissions\]](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Education_and_Employment/Smallbusiness_employment/Submissions).

[REDACTED] says "I tried my best to find work. When I felt the recruitment process was discriminatory then I approached tribunals. My attempts brought relapses and disturbed life resulting five hospitalisations within 11 years".

In September 2022 [REDACTED] became a victim of identity theft (SCAM) in the online recruitment process. The Scammers got his personal information such as passport, details, and driver's license by deception. [REDACTED] says "The online recruitment process is difficult for people with Autism. I am willing to work, but the recruitment process is a flop; my disability, language and age are going against me".

[REDACTED] says "In Sri Lanka I worked for eight years in electrical and communications engineering. In Australia my first job was tutoring maths [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In Engineering, I worked in a telco [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] For two years, I worked unpaid for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I supported the rollout of [REDACTED] I believe I can work in similar organisations".

[REDACTED] recalls the autobiographic novel "How the Steel Was Tempered (1935)" that he read at the age of twelve. The protagonist of the novel Nicolai Ostrovosky was a Russian Socialist who worked with a permanent disability. Nostalgically [REDACTED] "I do not mind working



unpaid if I feel that I share my skills for the benefit of everyone. I admire the value of working. Keeping me idle make me feel frustrated and suicidal.”

\_\_\_\_\_ says his condition is well managed and supported by health professionals. He requests to meet you to share his intentions and discuss the opportunities of finding unpaid work in public or private enterprise.

I would appreciate it if you could assist \_\_\_\_\_ to find some suitable work of his interest. If it is necessary, please contact me on \_\_\_\_\_

Yours faithfully,

