

Friday, 13 December 2019

Productivity Commission
Level 12,530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia



worklinkgroup.org.au

Worklink Group Ltd
ABN: 69665372998

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: MENTAL HEALTH DRAFT REPORT SUBMISSION

Worklink Group Ltd (Worklink) offers the attached Discussion Paper as a submission for the Mental Health Draft Report.

Worklink has delivered Mental Health specialist employment and community mental health programs since 1995 in Far North Queensland. Worklink currently delivers Disability Employment Services, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and PHN administered community mental health programs. Worklink previously delivered Partners in Recovery and the Personal Helpers and Mentors program and are now involved in the transition of Commonwealth participants into the NDIS through the delivery of the Continuity of Support and National Psychosocial Support Scheme programs through the Primary Health Network.

Disability Employment Services (DES) has great potential to improve lives however currently predisposes people with a mental illness to failure. People with a mental illness have the lowest success rates within DES and part of this is due to the one size fits all nature of the DES Performance and Funding Models. Providers are under resourced to give the support that is needed and as a result people with a mental illness fail to achieve employment outcomes. This ultimately impacts the mental wellbeing of individuals and Australia's communities.

The Discussion Paper, "How People with a Mental Illness in Disability Employment Services are Predisposed to Failure", examines the complexities for providers to support people with a lived experience of mental illness. It includes an overview of the system gaps that have been created due to the reduction of community mental health programs due to the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

For further comment or information, please contact on 07 4031 0877.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Cotton
Manager – Partnerships & Standards