



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

# MEDIA RELEASE

**Tuesday 15 September 2009**

## **NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY**

Statement by Mr Peter Anderson, Chief Executive

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation welcomes the release of the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy by the Australian Government.

The Strategy represents a major step towards lifting the profile of people with disabilities in the workplace and in addressing current and future Australian labour force and skills needs.

The Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot announced by the Government will serve to open the doors for people with a disability to enter the world of work and actively contribute to productivity growth in the workplace. This \$6.8 million initiative will support employers in employing people with a disability by removing red tape and simplifying access to support services and incentives.

People with disabilities are significantly underrepresented in the private sector workforce in Australia. Sustainable, long term employment in the private sector will help stave off future skills and labour shortages as well as providing a significant boost to their quality of life.

There are significant advantages to engaging people with disability in the workforce. One very important step forward is the provision of better information to employers, and support and assistance in making decisions about employing people with a disability. With good planning and support, this can be a real win for both business and people living with disability.

ACCI is committed to working with the Australian Government to promote the employment of people with a disability. ACCI welcomes the increased focus on their employment through the provision of business-focused tools, workshops and networking for business and industry.

The National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy is a significant step towards building long term employment outcomes for people with disability works hand in hand with boosting productivity for all Australians.

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*ACCI represents over 350,000 businesses in every State and Territory and all industries. Our network employs around 4 million employees, ranging from the top 100 companies to tens of thousands of small and medium businesses.*

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