



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

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DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT CAN ADDRESS SKILL SHORTAGES

Statement by Mr Peter Anderson, Chief Executive

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation, has joined with the Australian Council of Trade Unions and 25 other national companies and organisations to support the Australian Government's recently released National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy.

ACCI is actively encouraging all employers to consider the benefits of employing people with disabilities.

Employees with disabilities have been shown, on average, to have better attendance rates and increased job retention than those without disability.

After many years of national skills shortages, it makes sense for businesses to consider the economic and social gains from employing people that have traditionally been under-represented in the private sector workforce.

Australian research indicates that in relation to the cost/benefit of workplace adjustments for employees with disability, 65 per cent of employers rated the financial effect to be cost neutral and 20 per cent identified an overall financial benefit.

Subsidies are also available through the Workplace Modifications Scheme for employers to make modifications to their premises to accommodate employees with disabilities.

Sustained and sustainable economic growth underpins improvement in the standard of living of all Australians. Through participation in work, people with disabilities are able to make a valuable contribution and share in the benefits of employment.

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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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