



SENATOR THE HON ARTHUR SINODINOS AO

SENATOR FOR NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

23 February 2017

Supported employees urged to register by 30 April 2017 for a BSWAT payment

Senator the Hon. Arthur Sinodinos AO has announced that the Government is encouraging thousands of eligible Australians with intellectual impairment to register for the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) Payment Scheme before the deadline of 30 April 2017.

The Scheme will deliver one-off payments of at least \$100 to around 10,000 supported employees of Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) who had their wage calculated using the BSWAT sometime between 2004 and 2014.

Senator Sinodinos said people must register to apply for a payment by 30 April 2017.

“It’s quick and easy to register online at www.dss.gov.au/bswat , or you can call the scheme hotline on 1800 799 515,” Senator Sinodinos said.

Clare is a nominee for her second-eldest daughter, Ashlea, and she applied on her behalf through the BSWAT Payment Scheme.

Clare says that for Ashlea and other supported employees, the one-off payment can make a big difference.

“The payment could better people’s current living conditions in so many ways; from buying a better working refrigerator to maybe needing a new mattress, or furthering their education to increase their opportunities in the workforce. The list would be endless,” said Clare.

Senator Sinodinos said that ADEs provide valuable employment opportunities for approximately 20,000 workers across the country.

“ADEs allow people with disability an opportunity for social interaction and to contribute to their local community through work, and will continue to play an important role in the lives of people disability into the future,” he said.

The Department of Social Services has sent an application form to people who may be eligible for the BSWAT Payment Scheme.

By completing and returning the form by 30 April 2017, the Department will automatically register a person for the scheme as well as process their application for a payment.

“If people want or need extra time to make a decision they can register by 30 April 2017 and then apply for payment by 30 November 2017,” Senator Sinodinos said.

“A payment could make a big difference to someone’s life, and I encourage anyone who is eligible to register by 30 April 2017.”

For more information, to check eligibility and to register for the scheme, visit www.dss.gov.au/bswat or call the BSWAT Payment Scheme hotline on 1800 799 515.

Media Contact:

Nat Openshaw - 0409 049 128