

# Australian disability enterprises are modern slavery

Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) are a rebrand of the old “sheltered workshop”. 17,000 disabled people work in them. These are special workplaces just for disabled people where we are paid very low wages. They usually register as charities and claim they are doing us a favour.



The wage can be \$3.12 an hour

The minimum wage is \$24.95 per hour. Even 14 year olds get paid \$8.87 per hour.



There is lots of opposition to it

Polls show 82% of Australians think it is unacceptable. Four Disability Royal Commissioners demanded that ADEs be abolished.



They do not prepare disabled people for better jobs

Data shows that between 1.75% and 5% of people who work in ADEs ever transition to mainstream jobs.



Disabled people can work in mainstream jobs

760,000 people with profound or severe disability work in mainstream jobs--far more than in ADEs.



ADEs aren't doing disabled people a favour

The work is hard and tiring, and includes packing boxes, sewing body bags, and industrial cleaning.



They can be abolished

26+ jurisdictions around the world, including the City of Sydney, have banned all ADEs from their supply chains.

*“Disability segregated employment and subminimum wages can be understood as modern slavery. Disabled people are exploited, they have little choice about their work, and are often given misleading information about their options.”* - **Professor Linda Steele, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney**