

BREAK THRU PEOPLE SOLUTIONS - MEDIA RELEASE

RESPONSE TO "THE DIGNITY OF WORK" SPEECH

BY PM JULIA GILLARD 13/4/11

In principle Break Thru People Solutions would support any initiative which encourages those who are disadvantaged in the labour market such as the long term unemployed, Indigenous Australians, sole parents, young people, mature job seekers, people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and people with disabilities, including those on the Disability Support Pension who have the capacity to work in regular jobs for real wages. Break Thru's vision is that we will "courageously promote the value, potential & inclusion of all people in the life of their community".

Break Thru knows from 20 years of experience that employment offers a sense of self esteem, a purpose for living, reduction in mental health issues, being a tax payer and consumer rather than a welfare recipient & contributing back to their local community. Break Thru also knows that there is no "quick fix" for many with significant barriers and will continue to encourage the government to look at suitable social initiatives, purposeful vocational training and flexible programs to support people in gaining skills, securing regular employment and making a meaningful contribution to their community. In other words, assisting individuals to reach their individual potential.

Break Thru also recognises that in many communities, the skills required that are in short supply (e.g. from the mining sector) are not necessarily found in sufficient numbers in the groups mentioned above to overcome growing shortages and would caution against scapegoating these groups as "being able to support themselves", without a significant input of funding for training and support (pre and post placement).

Instead, Break Thru believes the inefficiencies identified by research commissioned by peak bodies NESAs and Disability Employment Australia (ACE) in current employment programs Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services should be minimised. One consistent message was around the administrative burden placed on service providers by funding bodies which wastes many millions of dollars that could better directed to the most disadvantaged job seekers.

In regional and remote areas where little employment exists, the Commonwealth government is encouraged to be more flexible in what it rigidly classifies as "employment" and look towards social and other outcomes.

Ross Lewis, MD

Break Thru People Solutions - 18.04.11

For more information on Break Thru People Solutions, please visit www.breakthru.org.au or contact Marketing Manager Fayssal Sari on 0423 006 569

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Breaking thru barriers, creating futures

