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MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR URGES GOVERNMENT TO FINALISE FAIR DISABILITY WAGE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Labor urges the Abbott Government to get on with the job of developing a new non-discriminatory wage assessment tool for thousands of workers with disability.

As reported in the Guardian today, the Abbott Government appears set to seek an extension to a Human Rights Commission deadline in April or face being in breach of the Disability Discrimination Act.

The Government has had a year to develop and finalise a new, fair assessment tool for workers with disability.

The Government must ensure wage setting arrangements are non-discriminatory and fair for all people with disability.

Labor is determined to see workers with disability receive fair pay for the work that they do.

This comes as Labor continues to urge the Abbott Government to agree to Labor's fair amendments to the *Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) Payment Scheme Bill 2014.*

In its current form, the Government's BSWAT Bill seeks to deny people with disability the right to pursue back pay against the Commonwealth through the courts.

Labor will move to amend the Bill in the Senate in June, to enable those people who choose to participate in the Government's BSWAT scheme to also continue to participate in a class action that protects their common law rights.

Labor will not agree to the Bill in its current form, which prevents people with disability from exercising their legal rights to pursue to back pay.

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