

David A.S.Crofts

25 Brisbane Street
BERWICK 3806

23/10/1999

CENTRELINK

27-29 Robinson Street
DANDENONG 3175

Dear Sir/Madam,

I receive a disability support pension and I would like to be able to present a future employer with documented evidence of all advantages and disadvantages associated with employing me.

Hence, in order to impress my employer I am requesting a copy the relevant allowance application form and a document describing the requirements for payment and payment details.

Yours sincerely

David Crofts

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25 Brisbane Street
BERWICK 3806

9/11/1999

Yolande Lawton

Customer Service Disability Officer
Fountain Gate Customer Service Centre
CENTRELINK
42 Magid Drive
NARRE WARREN 3805

Dear Madam,

Please refer to my letter dated 23/10/99.

After analysis of our appointment today I was left with the following impressions.
Please tell me if I understood you correctly.

- Wage Subsidies eventually reach an Employer through an “Employment Service Provider”.
- Employer and “Employment Service Provider” together use a formula to determine the details of the Wage Subsidy.
- CENTRELINK is NOT PREPARED to inform me of this formula so that I can negotiate with desired Employers before the need to involve an “Employment Service Provider”.
- The records from the Doctor that recommended the granting of a Disability Support Pension are NOT SUFFICIENT for the formula to be resolved with input only from a desired Employer.

CENTRELINK seems to happily endorse indefinite payment of Disability Support Pension but seems to object if some funds are to be used for temporary Wage Subsidy.

Yours sincerely,

David A.S.Crofts

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25 Brisbane Street
BERWICK VIC 3806

26/11/1999

Ms Janine Fyfe
Acting Director

The Consultation and Access Section
The Office of Disability
The Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services

PO Box 7788
Canberra Mail Centre
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Dear Madam,

I currently receive a Disability Support Pension granted on 27/9/90.

After reading the October CENTRELINK newsletter I decided to call their Disability Hotline and inquire about the benefits payable to the employer of someone receiving a Disability Support Pension. Even though I still felt unable to work, I felt it helpful to do this as a prerequisite. After a 10 minute wait, I spoke to Shawn, who after asking for irrelevant information that was already contained in my file, informed me that the formula for computing Wage Subsidies is now no longer simply defined. He told me that this was because the ALP was no longer in government and arranged for someone to call me back with a response to my request.

I decided to document my request so I sent my first letter to CENTRELINK.

Please refer to my enclosed letter dated 23/10/99.

In response to my correspondence, I received a telephone call from Yolande Lawton from CENTRELINK's Narre Warren office. She told me that "Wage Subsidies" are paid by "Employment Service Providers" and that in order to be referred to one, WAI and WAIR forms must be completed. I also made an appointment to see her with my case manager from ERMHA to discuss my needs further.

I believe that when I am able to work the process of seeking employment will be easier than actually working, and that an "Employment Service Provider" will only be useful when I can no longer identify desirable potential employers.

I attended the appointment with Yolande on 9/11/99 and verbally repeated my original request. I was told that \$100 **or more** per week **can** be paid to my employer for **up to** 13 weeks. They were not prepared to supply the requested documents but instead gave me the WAI and WAIR forms to complete and told me to contact an “Employment Service Provider”.

As my original request still wasn't being met I decided to document CENTRELINK's response to my request.

Please refer to my enclosed letter dated 9/11/99 and Yolande's reply dated 15/11/99.

The only relevant information in Yolande's reply came from her enclosed pamphlet.

- Your Disability Employment Service can ... pay your employer a wage subsidy if it is essential to secure the job.
- The amount of wage subsidy is agreed between your employer and your Disability Employment Service.

I only wish to be able to tell an employer during my interview what compensation they can expect for giving me a chance. Perhaps you can help me?

Yours sincerely,

David A.S.Crofts

P.S. I was told that if Question 3 on the WAIR form indicated that I am able to work, my Disability Support Pension will be terminated and I will be placed on an Unemployment Benefit.

I believe that CENTRELINK should not use a pensioner's expression of interest in employment as an excuse to force them to justifying their Disability Support Pension. This discrimination will only harm the relationship between CENTRELINK and the people it is trying to help.