

The Hon. Michaela Cash MP
Minister for Employment
Senate, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

23 June 2017

Dear Ms Cash MP,

Broad Exclusions From Job Seeker and Wage Subsidy Schemes

The Eros Association is the Australian industry association for adults-only businesses.

We are writing to raise concerns in regard to employees currently denied access to wage subsidy schemes and other incentives to tackle unemployment. Exclusions currently apply to *'a position, including a retail position, involving nudity or in the sex industry'*.¹

This is a broad exclusion that encompasses positions far removed from sex work or work within an adult entertainment venue. A snapshot of some employment types excluded under current policies include:

- Warehouse and logistics workers managing packaged adult goods.
- Customer service representatives within lingerie, party-supply and adult novelty retail stores.
- Web design and marketing employees for online adult retailers.
- Customer service representatives within sex-positive or LGBT bookstores.

Many adult goods are sold at chemists, service stations, newsagents, clothing outlets and supermarkets but are not subject to exclusion. This appears to be an inconsistent approach by the Department.

Eros understands Department concerns in regard to employment benefit schemes incentivising job seekers to enter sex work or work within an adult entertainment venue. However, workers within such industries act as independent contractors, not employees.

The current scheme appears overly broad and encompasses many promising opportunities for job seekers. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our concerns further and can be contacted as listed below.

Kind regards,

Rachel Payne
General Manager

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¹ Jobactive Deed 2015-2020, p83 (amended 1 July 2016).