

24 February 2023

## **Inquiry into Workforce Australia Employment Services**

The Eros Association is Australia's industry association for adults-only retail, wholesale, media and entertainment. We welcome the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Inquiry into Workforce Australia Employment Services.

Our particular area of concern is discrimination in the Workforce Australia - Transition to Work Deed 2022-2027, which explicitly excludes vacancies in "a position, including a retail position, involving nudity or the sex industry."

Adult retailers and wholesalers, viable employers within the Australian economy, are being excluded under this policy without explanation. In 2020, it was estimated that there were over 1000 adult retail stores operating in Australia, making the industry a significant employer. Our members' experiences are detailed in the attached report, *Discrimination in Wage Subsidy Schemes*.

We recommend that the Government conduct a review of the Workforce Australia - Transition to Work Deed 2022-2027 to expand the definition of employers eligible for wage subsidies to include adult retailers and wholesalers, as recommended by the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman.<sup>1</sup>

It is time to allow adult retail and wholesale to be fully recognised as part of the Australian economy, and for this exclusion under the Workforce Australia - Transition to Work Deed 2022-2027 to be removed. It should not be the role of the Government to act as a moral arbiter for job-seekers being employed in an industry of their choosing.



**Graeme Dunne**  
General Manager  
Eros Association

E: [manager@eros.org.au](mailto:manager@eros.org.au) | [www.eros.org.au](http://www.eros.org.au)

---

<sup>1</sup> Michael Koziol, 'Push to overturn "prudish" ban on wage subsidies for adult store workers', *Sydney Morning Herald* (22 November 2020).