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The Secretary of Committees
Parliament House of Australia

Dear Secretary,

RE Inquiry into employment: increasing participation in paid work

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry with particular reference to measures that can be implemented to increase the level of participation in paid work in Australia, from the perspective of a rural businesswoman who is both an employer and an employee.

- If a person is employed to do a task, and tax is deducted from the wage, the employee should be able to claim the wage as an expense. For example, if I employ a wool classer or shed hand during shearing, the wage is a tax deduction. If however, I do the wool classing myself and employ somebody to teach my children Distance Education or do domestic duties, I am unable to deduct their wage as a tax deduction. The benefits of allowing a tax deduction in both cases includes a likely increase in employment, increase in taxes paid and the legitimisation of many domestic employees work.
- Unfortunately, the costs associated with employing staff (wage, superannuation, workers compensation) are not cost beneficial for many small enterprises. I often feel disgruntled about paying superannuation and workers compensation to companies that are publicly listed and have their shareholders as their main concern. I feel this increases the premiums and erodes the workers equity. It acts as a disincentive for potential employment opportunities.
- Communication and public transport infrastructure is very poor in rural areas; meaning access to work opportunities can be difficult. Recently the only Telstra payphone in my local town was out of order for five weeks (the closest working one was 42km away), resulting in the potential for lost work opportunities.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

Linda Gant