

Outsourcing Community Service Delivery

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Partially Confidential

I am a Disability Support Worker and have worked in both the private and government sectors, and I am appalled at the conditions of the clients and the workers in some of the group homes in the private sector. The government sector is far more superior. Clients cannot reach their optimal level of care when staff hours are cut, and the idea of sleepovers instead of wake night shifts is dangerous. It is an OH&S issue for the staff. I have worked these type of shifts in the past and the theory does not match the practicalities. It certainly is not right that a person is expected to be in a workplace and not be paid for being there, except for a menial token pay, and be away from their families. Clients get up at times and need to be redirected to bed, some clients decide to cook toast, have medical issues, or to go for a walk, or have seizures. People who have seizures are alone until the staff wake up, and they may need to be hospitalised. All of these I have experienced and been responsible for on a sleepover. Any sleep disturbances for staff are not paid for unless the one incident is over 2 hours. What normal work place has people there on a pitence for 8 hours? It would not be allowed. I challenge any other worker in any other industry to stay at work for 16 hours and be paid for 8, plus a token fee of \$45 for the extra 8