

### HOW CAN SCIENCE ADVANCE DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES?

AZURUM

Academic Rigour | Pragmatic Insights | Meaningful Content

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BUDGE

### SCIENCE = EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES













### ixion

part of Shaw Trust

and so it will be

Line 1



#### "Play it, Sam. Play 'As Time Goes By'."



#### "Magic mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?"



### "Aman oughta do what he thinks is best."

JOHN

1,1

" My mama always said, life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. "









## EVOLUTION NOT REVOLUTION



#### WHAT WORKS?

Mutual obligation. Pathological approach. Processes and forms. Managing the exception.

### Sanctions & a punitive approach. Conditionality. Obligated job search.

### SYSTEM NOT DIRECTED AT GETTING A JOB

### A DEFECIT MODEL

## Making it work DESPITE the system

### **DO THEY WANT US TO FAIL?**



#### **Australian Government**

#### **Department of Social Services**

#### **DO THEY WANT US TO FAIL?**



**Australian Government** 

**Department of Social Services** 

## IT'S UP TO US

### WHAT REALLY WORKS?

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#### WHAT REALLY WORKS?

EMPLOYER-LED<br/>Altruism.PARTICIPANT-LED<br/>Salutogenic approach.A fiscal ROI approach.<br/>Legislation.Psych/Data-informed<br/>human-centric.Money for employers.Harness Technology.

# WHAT WORKS?

# AI & DATA-LED INDIVIDUALISING

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Doctor D used /imagine
Midjourney Bot < BOT Today at 9:11 AM</p>

typical person with a disability, beautiful lighting, photorealistic, --ar 16:9 - @Doctor D





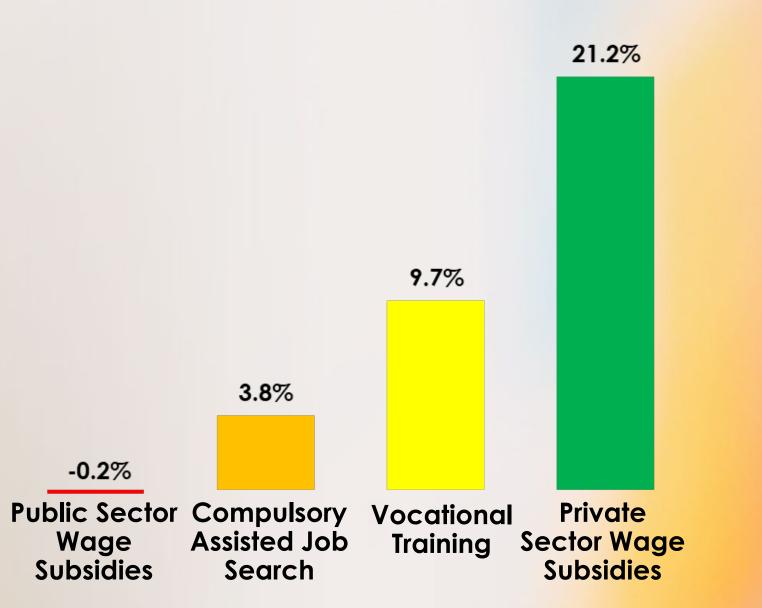
Midjourney Bot V BOT Today at 9:05 AM

person with a disability at work, photorealistic, highly detailed, dramatic lighting --ar 16:9 @Doctor D



## WHAT WORKS?

#### Impact on Employment Prospects



WAGE SUBSIDIES = Pure Economics... we need to apply behavioural economics:

Take-up of wage subsidies in Australia lower than anticipated.

"The very first reaction from employers was what's wrong with this placement that you have to pay me to hire them?"

# FRICTION

Jobactive

## WHAT WORKS: CHOICE ARCHITECTURE

Was not written in easily understandable English;

Employer had to read through all 7 pages of documentation before giving consent;

Had to be filled out & signed offline.



#### What's in a name?

Providence

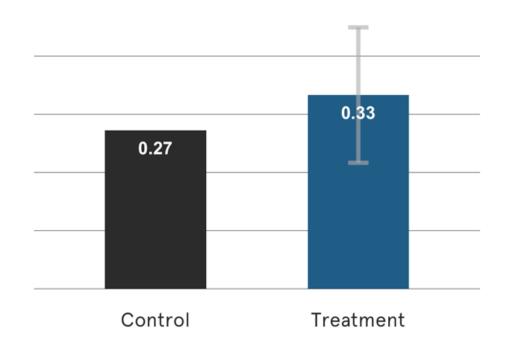
Receive up to \$6,500 through Employment Bonuses

list, thousands of busices

# EMPLOYMENT BONUS

#### What's in a name?

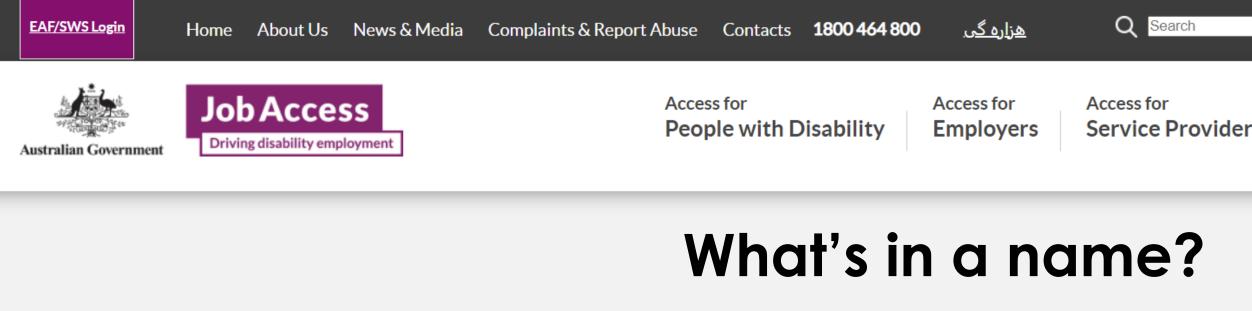
Average number of agreements signed per day



n = 620 \*\*\* p < 0.001, \*\* p < 0.01, \* p < 0.05, + p < 0.1



#### Feb 2018



Home » Wage subsidy

Listen

#### Wage subsidy

Wage Subsidies are available for employers who take on a Disability Employment Services (DES) jobseeker.

Employers can negotiate a wage subsidy with a DES provider to hire a new employee. The employer must agree that the employment arrangement will continue for the period required by the relevant wage subsidy criteria. Payments are made by DES providers to employers after the employer has met these criteria, and provided proof of employment.

#### What's in a name?

# **MUTUAL OBLIGATION**

# **OBLIGATION** DUTY BURDEN RESPONSIBILITY RIGHTS COMMITMENT

## MUTUAL OBLIGATION

## DOES

# **MUTUAL OBLIGATION**

# **EVEN WORK?**

# What happens if you remove mutual obligation AND increase payments?

"What we have to be worried about now is that we can't allow [this] to become an impediment to people going out and doing work."



# What Actually Happened when we removed mutual obligation?

"The suspension of mutual obligations [+\$550 supplement] impacted positively on people's lives including:

- (1) the ability of respondents to meet basic needs and improve their long-term financial security,
- (2) improvements to physical and emotional well-being,
- (3) increased labour market engagement and
- (4) engagement in other forms of unpaid productive work."

Klein E, Cook K, Maury S, Bowey K. An exploratory study examining the changes to Australia's social security system during COVID-19 lockdown measures. Aust J Soc Issues. 2022 Mar

#### increased labour market engagement



# SANCTIONS

FEAR

### DOES FEAR WORK AS A MOTIVATOR?

# FOMO ELECTION MESSAGES

#### WHEN FEEL CAPABLE

https://www.apa.org/news/apa/2020/fear-motivator-elections

#### What does the literature say?

"Fear can elicit initial arousal and attention. It may not necessarily lead to sustained motivation or behavioral change."

Cognitive Evaluation Theory: "Threats can decrease intrinsic motivation by making individuals feel controlled."

"Fear or threats can trigger negative emotions, such as anxiety or stress, which can impair cognitive functioning and hinder motivation."

Self-Determination Theory: "Environments that rely on threats, punishments, or rewards for compliance can ...reduce their motivation to engage in the desired behavior."

(Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2010, Leotti, Iyengar, & Ochsner, 2010, Lazarus & Folkman, 1984)

#### **ALTERNATIVES?**

**Protection Motivation Theory. 2 Messages:** 

A coping message advised participants on how to minimize their exposure to risk.

A threat appeal highlighted the potential negative consequences of not doing so.

Bavel et al., Using protection motivation theory in the design of nudges to improve online security behavior, International Journal of Human-Computer Studies (2019)

# Threat Appeal3.12%Coping Message6.32%

The coping appraisal elements of SELF-EFFICACY & RESPONSE-EFFICACY were significant predictors of reported desired behavior.

#### **DOES CONDITIONALITY & COMPLIANCE WORK?**

YES AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT A COMPILATION OF WORK FROM SCHOLARS AT THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

Off flow increases.

#### People take lower-paid jobs or disappear.

DWP: The Impact of Benefit Sanctions on Employment Outcomes: draft report, 2023



#### DO JOBSEEKERS SEND MORE JOB APPLICATIONS?

YES

"Although employers interviewed were positively disposed to employing unemployed jobseekers,

they were discouraged by the large number of unfiltered applications that they received from unemployed candidates."

SPA, Employers' perspectives on benefit conditionality in the UK and Denmark, J Ingold, 2020





#### **STRENGTHS-LED MESSAGING**

a farmer aller

## SUCCESSES

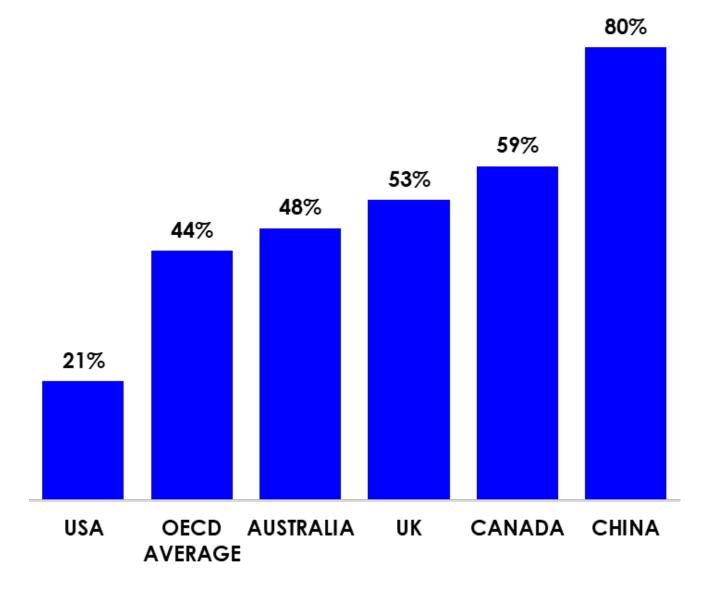
# What % trust govt-funded employment services to help them find a job?







#### EMPLOYMENT RATES FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY



Quota employers to reserve no less than 1.5% of job opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Those who fail to meet quota must pay a fee to the Disabled Persons Employment Security Fund.

Govt. Tax & Financial, technical & resource assistance.

Encourages people with disabilities to engage in selfemployment.



#### **Quick Behavioural Hacks for Res**

Having 'time employed' rather than dates on resume, changed interview rates by:

(Kristal et al., 2022)

Reducing time unemployed from 6+ months to <3 months changed interview rates by:

(Ghayad, 2013)



800%

(1.9% - 16.1%)

# PSYCHOLOGICAL CAPITAL

# **INTRINSIC MOTIVATION**

# **SELF-EFFICACY**

#### WE HAVE TO BE PRAGMATIC

#### TAXPAYER & VOTER CONSIDERATIONS

## DO YOU HAVE THE TIME?



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# THANK YOU

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