

All Queensland government transport services will be integrated for the first time under the TransLink banner. TransLink is a widely recognised brand here in South East Queensland and is known for delivering high quality services. While TransLink will no longer be a statutory authority as a result of this bill, its brand will continue and be expanded state wide. All Queenslanders will benefit from having a single organisation for public transport related issues and this will be housed and transitioned under the TransLink brand. Integrating TransLink into the Department of Transport and Main Roads will improve service outcomes for public transport users and providers. Whether it is a regional bus operator dealing with the department, a taxi driver renewing their driver authorisation or a member of the public inquiring about an everyday service important to them, there will be one entity and that entity, again, will be accountable to Queenslanders.

So what is my vision for the TransLink Division in the Department of Transport and Main Roads? It is simple: a real focus on service delivery with a five year planning horizon, a strong customer focus and continual improvement in all aspects of public transport service delivery. I want to build on the positive initiatives delivered by the TransLink Transit Authority over the past few years to expand and improve service delivery state wide.

This bill includes amendments that will provide that level of accountability in government that Queenslanders expect and deserve. TransLink was tasked with investigating commercial opportunities to generate revenue and reduce the overall level of government subsidy required to deliver public transport. Every dollar counts, so it is important these commercial aspects continue to offset public transport costs wherever possible. Under the new centralised structure, the department will continue these activities and continue to seek out opportunities for generating revenue from the network. This approach will help to minimise the burden on the Queensland taxpayer and help achieve one of this government's key objectives, addressing public transport affordability.

The bill includes safeguards to provide certainty for operators, contracted parties and TransLink employees. These safeguards ensure that any rights or entitlements owed by TransLink are preserved on its dissolution and transferred to the state. The bill also makes minor administrative amendments to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of public passenger transport. Some key minor amendments include enhancing administrative processes for civil banning order applications and allowing transit officers to enforce offences at bus stops.

The other amendments are administrative in nature. Civil banning orders were introduced in 2011 as a civil court based mechanism to deter troublemakers on the public transport network. I think I am safe to say that the original legislation was rushed and as a consequence we have seen some administrative issues emerge that impact on the deterrence value of those orders. Further amendments in the bill will assist our transit officers to deal with offenders at bus stops by broadening the meaning of public transport infrastructure to include bus stops.

In conclusion, the Newman government is committed to the delivery of affordable, reliable and frequent public transport. This bill will help achieve that by eliminating duplication and restoring accountability for public transport. This can only be a positive step for the state's public transport network. I commend the Bill to the House.

First Reading



Hon. SA EMERSON (Indooroopilly—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.53 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee.

DISABILITY SERVICES (YOUR LIFE YOUR CHOICE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. TE DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (12.54 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006 to enable people with a disability to receive funding to obtain disability services. I table the bill and explanatory notes and I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Disability Services (Your Life Your Choice) Amendment Bill 2012.

Tabled paper: Disability Services (Your Life Your Choice) Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Disability Services (Your Life Your choice) Amendment Bill 2012. This government is committed to providing Queenslanders with a disability and their families with a quality disability service system that meets their needs and helps them to live the lives they want. We strongly believe that people with a disability should have the freedom to make choices about how they live, including the supports they receive. Our disability service system needs to reflect this.


The government has developed a strategy to strengthen Queensland's disability front-line services that focuses on: streamlining and improving service access; increasing choice and control; promoting early intervention and prevention; providing better value for money; and reducing red tape for service providers so they can get on with the job of providing services to people with a disability. The strategy aligns Queensland with reforms nationally and in other jurisdictions, and ensures we are well positioned for any future National Disability Insurance Scheme. A key aspect of the strategy is to provide people with a disability with more choice and control over their funding for disability services and supports. It has been shown that disability service systems that promote the exercise of choice and control by clients deliver better quality of life for clients and more efficient services. The framework for self-directed funding, Your Life Your Choice, will enable people with a disability and their families to take control of the planning, purchase and review of their specialist disability support.

There are two ways a person will be able to have control over their funding: either by working with a host service provider to plan and purchase their services and supports or by receiving their funding directly. At this stage, self-directed funding through a host provider will be rolled out in a phased approach commencing by the end of the year. The Disability Services Act 2006 regulates the funding of disability service providers. This bill is necessary to amend the act to allow the government to provide funding directly to a person with a disability or their families. Currently, there are some clients who do receive funding directly. However, to do this they had to fit within a legislative funding model that is designed for the funding of disability service providers. With these amendments, a person seeking to manage their own funding will no longer need to form an incorporated association or a company and meet many of the requirements of a service provider.

The bill provides a head of power for the minister to approve funding to a person with a disability or another person on their behalf. This could be someone nominated by the person with a disability or, alternatively, a guardian, attorney or member of the person's support network. In the case of a child with a disability, a parent can receive funding to obtain services on the child's behalf. There must be a funding agreement to ensure there is a written agreement that clarifies each party's responsibilities and obligations. The agreement will be set out in plain English, and will outline the types of services and supports that can be purchased and other terms and conditions that ensure funding is used for its intended purpose. For example, there will be terms in the contract that allow the department to cease funding and recover any unspent funds as a debt where funds are not being used in accordance with the agreement.

These amendments will reduce red tape for people who want to manage their funding directly. It will bring Queensland into line with disability funding practices in other states and help the government deliver a disability service system that provides people with a disability with genuine choice and control over their disability supports and funding. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

 **Hon. TE DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (12.58 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

~~FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL~~

Introduction

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (12.58 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend