



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 29 October 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Services

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.26 am): I recently had the pleasure of launching the Blue Skies Scenario in Brisbane on behalf of National Disability Services. Blue Skies offers a unique blueprint for building a truly inclusive society for people with a disability. The vision has been developed by people with a disability, parent advocates, service providers and government representatives. The Bligh government is working with the disability services sector to make this vision a reality. That is why the Premier has asked me to develop a 10-year plan for the future of disability services. I will be meeting with major stakeholders about developing this plan over the next few months.

The government's vision is about ensuring that people with a disability have the same opportunities as all Queenslanders. It is about catering for the diverse needs of people with disability in every aspect of their lives. This means ensuring that they have equality in education, employment, housing and recreation. Over the past decade, it has been Queensland Labor governments that have increased funding for disability services from \$250 million a year to more than \$900 million a year. We support the Blue Skies vision and we want to take disability services in Queensland to the next level.

The government will pay close attention to the Blue Skies Scenario in formulating our 10-year plan. At the heart of this plan is a recognition that people with a disability have a right to an 'ordinary life'. An 'ordinary life' is not just about the delivery of specialist disability services; it is about better access to transport, education, health care, employment and retail, tourism and recreational opportunities. It is about equality. A fully inclusive community is something that we need to create together. Queenslanders with a disability and their families and carers can rest assured that the Bligh government is sparing no efforts to build a more inclusive community for all people throughout Queensland.