



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Services

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.20 am): The Bligh government is committed to delivering quality care and support to Queenslanders with a disability. We are developing a 10-year disability services plan, which will ensure that more Queenslanders get a service. We want to create a modern and inclusive Queensland in which people with a disability get real opportunities.

I welcome the Prime Minister's announcement earlier this week that the Productivity Commission will investigate the feasibility of new approaches to delivering long-term disability care and support. One of the options the Productivity Commission will consider is the establishment of a national disability insurance scheme. According to the federal parliamentary secretary for disabilities, Bill Shorten—

Old systems are struggling to cope and we need to look at new ways of funding the growing costs associated with disability.

Queensland supports a national disability insurance scheme in principle. We recognise the need to reform the way disability services are funded and delivered and will continue to work with the Rudd government. However, we do not want to give people false expectations and hopes. We need to see what the Productivity Commission study concludes and how any national disability insurance scheme would be funded. As a nation, we need to get this right and make sure that we get the best outcomes for people with a disability.

The demand for disability services will only continue to grow. A recent Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report showed that around 2.3 million Australians will have a high level of disability by 2030. This means that more Queenslanders than ever will need access to disability services in the years ahead. Disability can happen to anyone at any time. It can be from a car accident, from a sporting injury, or from the onset of a medical condition. The Bligh government will continue to work with the Commonwealth to secure a better future for Queenslanders with a disability.