



Speech by

**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

Hansard Tuesday, 8 June 2010

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Action Plan for Children with Disability**

**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.37 am): Ensuring children with a disability get the very best start in life is one of the Bligh government's key priorities. Last week, the Premier and I launched a comprehensive action plan for children with disability. *Building bright futures: an action plan for people with a disability—birth to eight years* has the potential to transform the lives of thousands of people across the state. I table a copy of that plan.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Building bright futures: an action plan for children with a disability—birth to eight years' [[2330](#)].

Our plan outlines the government's commitment to ensure children with a disability and their families can access the supports they need. It has five key priority areas: easy access to information about services; more early intervention services; improved services in rural and regional areas; delivering a skilled workforce; and developing evidence based best practice. In 2009-10 the Bligh government has invested \$70 million to provide specialist disability services to children with a disability. As part of our new children's action plan, we will spend an extra \$12.7 million over the next three years to provide practical assistance to children with a disability and their families.

We are continuing to invest in disability services in the regions. This year we have provided the Umbrella Network in Townsville with \$90,000 a year to provide support. We are also providing Butterfly Kids on the Gold Coast with \$125,000 a year. Next month I will be up in Nambour and we will be announcing \$175,000 towards the construction of their new therapy centre.

The first eight years is an important time for children with a disability. It is crucial that families can access appropriate services during those years. On a recent listening tour of regional Queensland, I got a very clear message that Bundaberg and Mackay need stronger autism support services. This government is listening and we are responding. We have announced \$3 million over three years to fund brand-new autism early intervention services in both Bundaberg and in Mackay.