



Speech by


Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Action Week

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.22 pm): Last month in Cairns at the Queensland Disability Conference I launched the state government's 10-year disabilities plan. Absolutely Everybody: Enabling Queenslanders With a Disability is a 10-year plan to create a brighter future for people with a disability. The plan sets out a path where Queenslanders with a disability can participate in all aspects of community life. It contains 10 priorities for action to help people access real opportunities in their communities. These include opportunities to learn in settings of their choice, access to public spaces and improved transport. The plan is also about increasing employment opportunities for people with a disability. It sets out employment targets for people with a disability in the public sector, while targeting improved support for students and parents to transition into employment.

There is also a focus on giving people with a disability better access to mainstream and assistive technologies. This will help to support greater independence and participation at home, in educational and training settings, and in workplaces. We want to drive the development of mainstream technology and research to respond to the needs of people with diverse abilities. It also takes into consideration proposed national reforms.

The launch of this plan could not have come at a better time as it was Disability Action Week. From its launch at Samford where the Queensland Scouts held their 31st annual camp for children of all abilities to events held all over Queensland, I can report that Disability Action Week was a tremendous success. The annual Disability Action Week Awards recognised outstanding efforts to better the lives of fellow Queenslanders.

This coincided with the biennial Queensland Disability Conference, which attracted some 500 people to the Cairns Convention Centre. This was the first of these conferences held outside South-East Queensland. It was an extraordinary success. It was a great boost for tourism in Far North Queensland and a sign of Cairns's commitment to being an accessible and welcoming community for people with a disability. I thank the members for Barron River, Pumicestone and Aspley for their attendance. Disability Action Week wrapped up with the inaugural Cootharinga Walk With Me disability charity walk on the Cairns Esplanade. The funds raised at the event will go to support people with a disability and their families and carers. It was a fitting end to a highly successful week.

The Bligh Labor government has a plan to create a better, fairer and more inclusive Queensland. It is a plan with a vision to create more jobs and more training, education and social opportunities for Queenslanders of all abilities.