



Speech by

Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Tuesday, 31 July 2012

MOTION: NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (5.43 pm): I move—

That all words after 'National Disability Insurance Scheme' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'and calls on the federal government to fully fund the scheme in line with the recommendations of the Productivity Commission report.'

Like all Australians I want to see a better quality of life provided for people with disabilities, and I personally know the challenges families face in caring for loved ones with a disability because I have family members with disabilities. I recognise that reforming disability services means reforming the lives and support of our nation's most vulnerable people. That is why my government is and has always been a strong supporter of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We want to be part of this very important national reform, but to make this national scheme work it must be funded by the Commonwealth government.

In their final report the Productivity Commission made it quite clear that 'the Australian government should be the single funder of the NDIS'. Of course the members opposite had the exact same view when they were in government. It is disgraceful that they are now, as an opposition, playing politics with people with disabilities. I point out that the *Australian* newspaper pointed out that the Prime Minister's own staff said there were great politics in disabilities. What a shameful comment. When the opposition leader was the minister she said this to the House on 25 November 2009—

Queensland supports a national disability insurance scheme in principle ... 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.

I table her comments.

Tabled paper: Ministerial statement, dated 25 November 2009, by Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, regarding disability services [\[620\]](#).

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections across the chamber.

Mr NEWMAN: In May 2011 the former Labor government went further in their submission to the Productivity Commission—and I table the document for the benefit of all members because it demonstrates how you spell hypocrisy; it is A-L-P.

Tabled paper: Queensland government submission, dated May 2011, to the Productivity Commission's draft report: Disability Care and Support [\[621\]](#).

In their submission they stated—

The Queensland Government considers that any new scheme should clarify roles and responsibilities, and require the policy, funding and regulatory roles to be exercised by the Australian Government.

...

Queensland notes that given the breadth of an NDIS, the states and territories do not have appropriate revenue powers to finance a broader long term scheme ...

...

An important consideration for the Queensland Government—
and this is important—

is that the state should not be worse off fiscally through the funding of an NDIS ... the funding of an NDIS should be based on current state funding contributions and not based on concepts linked to an average national funding contribution.

These are not my words. These are the words of the former Bligh Labor government in a submission they made when the member for Mulgrave was the minister. Has he got amnesia?

What is currently being proposed by the Commonwealth government does not involve a long-term plan and it does not involve a sustainable funding model. I was disappointed that the long-term funding model for the NDIS was not even discussed at COAG, which is turning into a sham of a meeting. As I pointed out this morning, Labor's reckless financial management has left Queensland with \$65 billion worth of debt and we have lost our AAA credit rating.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: They want to shout abuse because they have nothing up top in their head to argue back. That has meant that our borrowing costs are \$100 million a year higher. That is \$100 million that could go towards funding better disability services in Queensland.

We will be closely watching the NDIS trials as they progress. We understand that the current system could be working better and that more people could be supported. My government is committed to providing real support for Queenslanders, and that is why we put \$920 million in this year and the Commonwealth put in less than \$300 million. Should we put more in? Absolutely. Do we want to put more in? Absolutely. Can we right now thanks to the Australian Labor Party opposite? No, we cannot but we will in the future when we have made the necessary savings.

(Time expired)