



Speech by


## Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

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### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (2.36 pm): On Tuesday, 31 July 2012 this parliament debated a motion that in its final amended form read—

That this House:

- supports the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and
- calls on the Federal Government to fully fund the scheme in line with the recommendations of the Productivity Commission report.

I was shocked to stand in this place and see the seven Labor members and one Independent on the other side of the chamber voting against this motion and, subsequently, not supporting this critical national disability reform. I fully support this national reform and was proud to stand on this side of the chamber voting in favour of the motion to have this scheme fully funded as per those recommendations of the Productivity Commission.

I personally have been a big supporter of the NDIS. I participated in the Count Me In Qld! NDIS public information forum last year throughout my campaign. That was held in Morayfield of course. Contrary to what the story in the media might have been lately or what they are trying to tell us, the Newman government has always been very clear that we want the NDIS here in Queensland. In fact, Premier Newman delivered a speech here in this chamber on Tuesday night in which he stated—

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 ...

Queensland already spends \$930 million on disability services and we have pledged to increase funding when the massive deficit left by Labor has been overcome. That is why it is important for this government to make tough decisions now to get Queensland's finances back on track. In contrast, the federal Labor government only contributes around \$300 million to disability services. I find it hard to swallow that Julia Gillard and her Labor colleagues, including those in this parliament, want to play political football with the lives of those with disabilities. To me that is downright disgusting. It seems to me that they will preference spending \$50 billion on a national high-speed internet broadband scheme in which most will be unable to afford to participate; however, they are not prepared to spend \$8 billion to support those with disabilities in our community.

Labor members in this place were quite happy to support Labor's federal carbon tax to gain support from the Greens and to look after their own political careers, but they do not have the guts to stand up and support those with disabilities. I call on all those Labor members in this House to pick up the phone to Julia Gillard and their fellow Labor colleagues in Canberra and tell them to stop playing politics with the lives of families with disabilities and to fund this scheme in full as per the recommendations in the Productivity Commission's report. I say to those people with a disability, their families and their carers that, as your local member, I am committed, as is this Newman government, to working on behalf of people with disabilities to improve the support and opportunities they shall receive.