




Speech by
Jackie Trad

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard Tuesday, 31 July 2012

MOTION: NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (6.16 pm): I rise in support of the opposition leader's motion on the benefits of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. One in five Australians has a disability. Every seven hours an Australian child is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Every 15 hours a child is born with cerebral palsy. People with a disability are among the most vulnerable members of our society, with 45 per cent living in or near poverty. It is shocking statistics like these that have driven Labor to boost disability funding in Queensland by almost 500 per cent since 1998, lifting the state government's investment in specialist disability, mental health and community support to more than \$1.6 billion. I table a graph showing the increase in disability funding between 1999 and 2011.

Tabled paper: Table titled 'Qld Disability Funding History 1998-1999 to 2010-2011' [\[623\]](#).

This has provided family support packages, provided more young people with a disability with postschool support, and provided 10 times more people with spinal cord injuries with support to rehabilitate and live independently. These are thousands of Queensland families whose lives have been changed thanks to support from Labor governments.

But disability support needs more. It needs a new system. It needs national reform and national leadership. The moment was last week. The time for the idea had come and those opposite waved it goodbye. Not only did they wave it goodbye; they turned up their noses and watched people despair. State budgets are, by design, political documents. They are about choices. They are about what governments value. The Premier's refusal last week to invest—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! The levels of noise are rising to the point where it is difficult to hear clearly the speaker with the call. I call the member for South Brisbane.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. I understand that the speaker had 2½ minutes.

Ms TRAD: I have not reached 2½ minutes.

Madam SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The previous speaker did not go that long. There was actually a five-minute slot and we cannot narrowly define it as 2½ minutes on the clock. Therefore, I instructed the staff at the table to put three minutes on the clock. I call the member for South Brisbane.

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This government's priority is not about helping lift the load to build the NDIS; it is about building an extravagant new Executive Building for itself. This government's priority is not about the NDIS; it is spending thousands of dollars on its mining mates on High Court challenges. This government's priority is not the NDIS; it is spending millions of dollars mopping up the mess left by the Premier when he deserted the Brisbane City Council.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for South Brisbane.

Ms TRAD: Thank you. This government's priority is picking up the tab for the CityCycle scheme, which is an abject failure. The Premier is an embarrassment. Not even his own conservative colleagues will stand by him. The Premier's words and deeds last week not only embarrassed Queenslanders; they were deeply saddening for so many people with a disability and their families, and those opposite should all hang their heads in shame!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members! I will have silence before I call the next speaker.