




Speech by

Lisa France

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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DISABILITY SERVICES (YOUR LIFE YOUR CHOICE) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (8.15 pm): I rise to speak to the Disability Services (Your Life Your Choice) Amendment Bill 2012. This bill is an issue of extreme significance and will have a positive effect on the lives of the disabled people of my electorate of Pumicestone and the other people of Queensland. This bill is essential to fully implement the Your Life Your Choice Self-Directed Support Framework.

The recent census data collected identified that 4.8 per cent of the population of the Moreton Bay region reported that they need assistance with their day-to-day activities owing to disabilities. That is 48 people per 1,000 in my area. This government needs to ensure that people with a disability are allowed the dignity to make their own decisions about their care and care providers. It is time that people suffering from a disability are given the best opportunity for a decent and improved quality of life. It is extremely important that we give people with a disability the opportunity to make choices about their own lives.

The future National Disability Insurance Scheme focuses on providing more opportunities for choice and control for people with disabilities. Your Life Your Choice will complement the NDIS and provide an improved support service for people with disabilities. The Your Life Your Choice proposal provides this opportunity and will allow choice and control for people with a disability over their funding and support options. A disabled person or carer will be able to manage their funding by either working with an approved host provider or by receiving disability funding directly and making their own arrangements for disability support. We have excellent support mechanisms and organisations in place. So let us allow the people affected to choose their own providers or choose their own support services.

A key aspect of the strategy is to provide people with a disability with more choice and control over their funding for disability services and support. It has been shown that disability service systems that promote the exercise of choice and control by clients deliver better quality of life for clients and more efficient services.

It has taken a long time for people with disabilities to be recognised and given a voice. It has taken a long time for disabled people to be provided with assistance to make their own day-to-day activities easier. We now see material support for disabled people in the provision of accessible toilets, ramps, taxis with disability access and changes to buildings to provide easier access for people with disabilities. It is now with this voice that they can make their own choices. Disabled people will regain a certain amount of dignity and independence by making their own choices. They can prioritise their needs instead of having an organisation prioritising their needs. They can make their own decisions instead of having someone tell them what they can do or someone thrusting something upon them.

Understandably, support and support services purchased through self-directed funding must meet stringent guidelines. Mentoring and guidance through this new process will in itself provide the opportunity for disabled people to develop more sureness and self-confidence. The government has developed a strategy to strengthen Queensland's disability front-line services that focus on, one, streamlining and improving service access; two, increasing choice and control; three, promoting early intervention and

prevention; four, providing better value for money; and five, reducing red tape for service providers so that they can get on with the job.

The strategy aligns Queensland with reforms nationally and in other jurisdictions and ensures that we are well positioned for any future NDIS. The framework for self-directed funding—Your Life Your Choice—will enable people with a disability and their families to take control of the planning, purchase and review of their specialist disability support. The Your Life Your Choice framework aligns Queensland with other jurisdictions and will position Queensland well in transitioning to a future NDIS.

This bill will allow funding to be provided directly to individuals and give them the opportunity to improve their quality of life. Having grown up with friends and family members with disabilities I can appreciate the significance that this legislation will have on giving freedom of choice to individuals. I congratulate the minister, her team and this LNP government on these forward steps and I commend this legislation to the House.