



Speech by


**Peter Wellington**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

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## **NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME; FIRE AND AMBULANCE OFFICERS**

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (9.34 pm): I use this opportunity to publicly thank some big-hearted Sunshine Coast people, including Bill Hoffman, John Stokes and Ashley Robinson, who swam around Old Woman Island on the Sunshine Coast to raise thousands of dollars for our special school. After the swim, Ashley Robinson made a public plea to our Premier to join the National Disability Insurance Scheme trial. I again use this opportunity to urge our Premier to reconsider his refusal to join this national scheme.

I believe that as elected members of parliament we have a duty to care for those who for whatever reason cannot look after themselves. I believe it is disgraceful that the government is happy to pander to the big end of town but less than five months after the election it has stopped listening to many Queenslanders calling out for help. Only today we had our Queensland fire officers, ambulance officers and teachers—many who voted for the Newman government five months ago—marching on state parliament and calling out to be heard by the very government they voted for. Premier Newman may well blame the former government for many things, but one thing I believe he cannot criticise the former government for is a lack of compassion. I use this opportunity to bring to the attention of government members the message that the fire officers and the ambulance officers outside wanted to bring to the government members today but they did not come into the chamber. My message to the government members is simple: join me and Queenslanders in helping to distribute this support flyer I have here for our fire officers and ambulance officers. All it says is this—

I'm standing with our firefighters and ambulance officers.

Then there is a space for you to write your name, address, city, postcode and email address. It says—

Let's stand side by side

Queensland Ambulance Officers and Firefighters stand side by side 24/7 protecting our community.

We need the community to stand with us and let the government know that Ambulance Officers and Firefighters perform a critical role in protecting the community.

It is up to all of us to stand up for Ambulance Officers and Firefighters to ensure that Queenslanders get the Ambulance and Fire services they deserve.

Members, please support the fire officers and the ambulance officers and help distribute these very important flyers.