




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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**DISABILITY SERVICES (RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disabilities Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. This bill helps meet the government's commitment to reducing unnecessary red tape so our service providers can focus their efforts and resources on delivering top-quality services to Queenslanders. We do not want our dedicated disability service providers to be tied up in paperwork and process, when what they need to focus on is providing the best possible personalised care and support for vulnerable clients.

What I am most impressed with in this bill is the way that red tape for service providers has been stripped out of the framework without compromising the rights of clients. This bill gets the balance right, and there is a real benefit in the additional requirements on service providers as part of this bill. The introduction of reporting by service providers and strengthening client and family engagement will help ensure that clients receive the best support possible and that the need to use restrictive practices is reduced and eliminated. However, the government realise that there are a number of other requirements that do not result in direct client benefit and which actually divert resources from the support of these clients.

The bill reduces the number of prescriptive requirements for positive behaviour support plans. This means that the requirements of a plan will not include unnecessary information that does not help service providers support the client day to day. This will make these plans easier to understand and implement on the ground and improve outcomes for clients, especially as plans will be guided by a best practice model, positive behaviour support plan and guidelines being developed by the Centre of Excellence for Clinical Innovation and Behaviour Support.

The regulatory burden for service providers is also being reduced through the amendments that clarify the definition of 'restrictive practices'. This will mean that service providers are clearer about when they need to seek authorisation for certain actions under the framework and so will not waste valuable resources. Providing the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal with more discretion to determine the length of guardian appointments and removing the requirement for a short-term plan to be developed for a short-term approval will also reduce the time that service providers spend on administrative matters and allow them to focus their resources on improving the support for their clients.

This bill brings the focus squarely back to the support of clients and allows service providers to get on with the part of the job that they are most passionate about—supporting people with disabilities to live the best lives they can. I commend the bill to the House.