




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.07 pm): My government has from the outset remained absolutely committed to launching the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland, and we have delivered. On 25 September the Queensland and federal governments agreed that Northern Queensland will be the location of the NDIS early launch in early 2016. This is six months ahead of the commencement of the NDIS across Australia. Eligible children and young people aged under 18 in Townsville and Charters Towers and all eligible people with a disability on Palm Island will be the first Queenslanders to access the NDIS next year. Rolling out first in these locations provides the best opportunity to test NDIS processes simultaneously in a regional city, a rural centre and an Indigenous community. Around 1,600 people are expected to be eligible for the NDIS in the early launch sites, with 600 people expected to start receiving their funded support packages from April 2016. The remaining 1,000 eligible people in the launch site will receive their funded packages from July 2016. My government has contributed \$1.6 million towards early access to the scheme in North Queensland and the federal government will provide \$2.5 million. I want to assure people with a disability that once my government finalises the bilateral agreement with the federal government we will have more information about how the NDIS can be rolled out across Queensland. We are absolutely committed to finalising this agreement as quickly as possible. However, I am very concerned that the federal government's delay in signing the agreement will impact on proper planning for the transition to the NDIS.

The NDIS is also set to bring economic benefits to Queensland, creating 13,000 additional jobs in Queensland's disability sector and injecting around \$4 billion each year into the state's economy at full scheme from 2019-20. The NDIS will bring greater choice and control over how people with a disability live their lives and receive support, and I am pleased we are delivering on this early. The early launch in Queensland is a clear sign of the Queensland government's commitment to roll out the NDIS to all eligible Queenslanders with a disability.