



Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.58 am): I rise to speak about the NDIS rollout in Queensland. As we know, on 17 March 2016 the Palaszczuk government signed a landmark agreement with the federal government to roll out the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This agreement will be rolled out across Queensland in stages, with many of our regional areas commencing in July this year and the rollout's completion expected by June 2019. This news has been much anticipated and I know is very welcomed by my constituents and the greater disability sector.

I thank the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, for maintaining her commitment to the people of Queensland by ensuring that those most often marginalised are not forgotten. I congratulate the Minister for Disability Services, Coralee O'Rourke, for her tireless dedication to the disabled members of our community, ensuring that their needs are the needs of us all. Without the constant encouragement and support for this scheme, there would be thousands of Queenslanders in need whose lives could have been inadvertently changed for the worse and it is thanks to Labor's support and commitment that they are not forgotten.

By June 2019, 90,000 Queenslanders living with disability are expected to benefit from this scheme. That is a staggering number of people who would have otherwise fallen through the cracks had we not taken the initiative to ensure their care and safety. The good news does not end there—13,000 jobs are expected to be created by the conclusion of the rollout, with nearly \$4 billion injected every year into the Queensland economy as a result. This news is not just wonderful for the people who have dedicated their lives to the care of the less fortunate but a welcome reminder that the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to create more jobs for Queenslanders, with 60,000 jobs already created since January 2015. With this announcement, Queensland will see not only the creation of jobs but the influx of skilled work that Queensland needs for long-term, sustained development.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme has already started in North Queensland for young people aged 18 years in Townsville and Charters Towers and all eligible people with disability aged under 65 years on Palm Island. My electorate of Ipswich will begin to see the rollout from 1 July 2017. This is great news and I am thrilled that my constituents and disability providers will soon be benefiting from what is the biggest social reform that Queensland has had in more than 40 years. Establishing an early launch of the NDIS in Queensland was one of our key election commitments, and ours is a government that keeps its promises. Fundamentally, the NDIS will support people with disability to live the life they choose and to chase their dreams with appropriate support and not be bound by what others perceive they can achieve. It is all about targeted support and easier access and putting choice and control in the hands of the individual.

By full implementation in July 2019, disability services will move from state to Commonwealth responsibility. Importantly, current service and support arrangements will continue to be delivered to existing Queensland Disability Services clients until they enter the NDIS. I say to those extraordinary disability support providers in my electorate like CODI, which just celebrated 35 years of support to the Ipswich and greater community on Saturday, ALARA, Focal and CATS Inc., to name just a few, to keep up the good work over the coming year. I invite them to get on board and make the most of the new scheme, which really will benefit all. Queensland has just become part of a great achievement, one which without doubt will benefit all Queenslanders for decades to come, and I am thrilled that this landmark scheme has operated under the Palaszczuk government and that Queensland has had the opportunity to witness this momentous change.