




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (11.59 am): After a year in power, Labor is frozen at the wheel. This government is holding Queensland back. We have had 12 months of Labor and we are not getting anywhere. There are only two things that we can absolutely rely on with the Palaszczuk government and they are that, as the sun rises, it will wake up with no plan for Queensland and, as it sets, Queensland marks yet another day of the big freeze at the wheel.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is the most significant social reform since Medicare. That is why it is so important to have a minister and a government who can lead this reform—a minister who has the sector's confidence in this time of great change and, most importantly, the confidence of people with disability, their families and carers that the minister will deliver on her government's promises. Sadly, the feedback through my office does not reflect any real confidence.

Having spent most of its time in opposition complaining that Queensland did not host an NDIS trial, Labor took to the people of Queensland a commitment that it would host a trial. In government, it did not take very long for it to can that idea and change it from a promise of a trial to a promise to transition early. That promise is in jeopardy, too. Why? Because after 12 months at the helm, the Palaszczuk Labor government has not signed the bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth for the NDIS rollout in Queensland. Its promise to 1,600 North Queensland participants to be the first in the state to start seeing the benefits of the NDIS from 1 July this year is in jeopardy. That was a promise to young people with disabilities in Townsville and Charters Towers and people with disability on Palm Island.

The 13,000 jobs that will emanate from the NDIS in Queensland is also in jeopardy. The minister is happy to put out media releases on programs and initiatives that the former LNP government had in preparation for the NDIS, but she has been silent on fessing up to the people with a disability that she is not up to the task of negotiating a bilateral agreement. It seems that everyone else in Queensland is ready for the NDIS except the Minister for Disability Services.

This is a government that is happy to use other jurisdictions to support policy decisions. For the benefit of the House, I point out that this government's very own Labor counterparts in Victoria have acted in good faith with the Commonwealth by signing their bilateral agreement with the same terms as those set out for Queensland. Twelve months ago, under the LNP, most of the work on the bilateral agreement had been done but, under this minister, no bilateral agreement has been signed.

In government, the LNP planned ahead for a smooth transition to the NDIS, committing an extra \$868 million in funding over five years to bring the investment in specialist disability services to a record \$1.773 billion per annum from 2018-19 in time for the full state rollout of the NDIS. The LNP crafted a framework for Queenslanders with disability to self-direct their funding—an initiative that aligned with

the principles of the NDIS to give people choice and control over the funds that they receive. That was Your Life Your Choice. We put in place Parent Connect to support parents and carers of children with newly diagnosed disability. We set recurrent funding for additional respite to ease the burden on families through Respite Plus. We invested in innovative and sustainable accommodation for adults with disability who are cared for by their elderly parents and focused on young people with disability transitioning for care and additional support to parents to prevent relinquishment. We delivered the Sector Readiness and Workforce Capacity initiative, offering training to the sector workforce and to people with disability, their families and carers in preparedness for the NDIS. I could go on with the range of initiatives and programs that we put in place in order that Queensland was prepared for when the bilateral agreement was signed.

We understand that the Commonwealth government has been negotiating in good faith with Queensland to have the bilateral agreement finalised and that there is a proposal on the table. I understand that, as a result of this government's reluctance to negotiate in good faith, the early rollout that it has promised to North Queensland will be compromised. So today I am calling on the minister and the Premier to do the right thing by Queensland and reach an agreement with the federal government so that people with disability in this state can have access to the NDIS.