




Speech By
Tracy Davis

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 3 November 2016

PETITION: MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (11.42 am): I rise to speak to the petition that has been lodged. I do think that petitions play a very important part in providing Queenslanders with a connection to their parliament to have their say on matters that are important to them. As members would know, the very heart of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is about providing people with disability choice and control over the supports and services that they wish to access. By ensuring that people with a disability and their carers receive full access to the support they need, the NDIS is working to the vision of a community that values people with disabilities. For many families, transitioning to the NDIS can be both an exciting and daunting prospect. For those who have not been recipients of a personalised package of care this can be even more so because it is a quantum shift in the way that they may have accessed services in the past, and these sorts of services would include school transportation.

I agree with the member for Mudgeeraba that it is disappointing there is distress and concern in the community regarding the delivery of school bus services for students with disability beyond 2019—information that was available had the Minister for Education sought clarification from her very own federal member who happens to be the federal assistant minister for disability services, but sadly that did not happen. One would think that on the back of families asking genuine questions about the future of school transportation at the very least the minister would have picked up the phone and found out that information directly. She could have even popped in to the assistant minister's office—it is not that far away—but, no, she did not. It would be very concerning if the real intention of the Minister for Education was less about children and more about politics, because people with disability, their families and their carers are not interested in politics. People with disability, their families and their carers do deserve to have their questions around transitional arrangements under the NDIS addressed but without the underbelly of political pointscoring. I can inform the House that in her response to the petition the federal assistant minister for disability services indicated that she had met with the Bus Industry Council to discuss the issues and was very clear that—

... as part of exploring innovative market solutions to services like school transport, that are frequently procured in groups, the Agency has commissioned a pilot through the Centre for Market Design to investigate how participants can interact directly with providers to choose the best way to get their child to and from school each day. The Agency is also open to test alternative models for market commissioning as they work through their consultations.

I would expect that that includes the current model. It would be helpful if the Palaszczuk government worked with the NDIA and the federal government in a productive way so that issues like this that are raised are dealt with in a timely and—

(Time expired)