




Speech By  
**David Janetzki**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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### **DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (WORKER SCREENING) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. Toowoomba was one of the first sites to rollout the NDIS from 1 January 2017 and there is no doubt that this has been an extraordinarily significant reform for disability services right throughout Australia. There have been some teething problems in my electorate and also federally and it has been heartening to be able to work with people—with mums and dads, with children who are suffering from disabilities—to help them. It has been one of the most rewarding parts of my job over the last 18 months to be able to work collaboratively with people with disabilities and also to be able to make a contribution to getting them the services that they so desperately need and deserve.

Locally in the south-west region there was talk of over 1,000 jobs being created from the NDIS. It is also clear from the past 18 months that we are now seeing a greater focus on people having meaningful opportunities to get not only the services they need in a tailored fashion but also employment that they may not have otherwise received. In that respect, the people of the electorate of Toowoomba South, Toowoomba and the region are fortunate to have some extraordinary disability services and support networks.

I refer to Warrina Services, the CEO, Lyndel Bunter, and her team. There is also my local Endeavour Foundation branch in Toowoomba and the supported employment services that they offer. The young men and women who go to the Endeavour Foundation on Ramsay Street in my electorate have opportunities for employment that they would not otherwise have had but for the extraordinary service that the Endeavour Foundation offers. Many of the people there are in supported employment at Withcott Seedlings, or are involved in meaningful jobs relating to confidential document destruction or in areas where they can use their skills and have meaningful employment.

There are other extraordinary disability support service providers in my region. I refer to YellowBridge and the CEO, Penny Hamilton, and the CFO, Adrian Bonica. Jodie Collins is the general manager of disability services at YellowBridge and she does an extraordinary job in making sure that people who need support get that support. The YellowBridge board makes an enormous contribution to disability services in Toowoomba. I refer to the chair, Carolyn Brown, and the extraordinary directors, Geoffrey Jordan, Cameron Stevenson and Tim McGowan. They are making their time free so that they are able to support people who have a disability and who are seeking the support they need. My area also has a whole range of other local support services, such as UnitingCare, Blue Care, Breakaway, Multicap and Quality Lifestyle Support.

Disability service support providers in the Toowoomba region—and this is why this bill is so important—are always looking for quality staff who are dedicated and focused on the task. These providers show that innovation is the key. YellowBridge, in providing meaningful jobs for people with disabilities, has opened a social enterprise called Collectables, which is a boutique op shop. Over the years, it has been amazing to take some of my colleagues to the Collectables social enterprise so that

they can see people getting supported employment opportunities and also providing an opportunity for the community to give back to the good work of YellowBridge. Again, I commend the work of Penny Hamilton, the CEO, in particular and the chair, Carolyn Brown.

Although it is important that NDIS funding be spread across the state, people in regional and country areas, such as Toowoomba and Western Queensland, want locals delivering local support services.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take that interjection from the member for Warrego. People in South-West Queensland do not want large organisations coming into their areas and dominating small service providers. In those areas sole traders, or larger enterprises within small regional communities and larger regional communities such as Toowoomba, want to be able to provide the services on the ground and not be overwhelmed by larger enterprises. Although those larger enterprises are trying to do the right thing, it is important that local providers give local support to local people.

There are some extraordinary small local disability support providers in Toowoomba, such as BigDog. Steven Paull does an amazing job there with Jeremy Scamp. They work very closely with the community to make sure that they are delivering local support on the ground. Steven Paull has coordinated the local disability community by producing a magazine called *What's Up in Disability*. It is compulsory reading for everybody in community leadership positions because it publishes local stories and details local services. That magazine is produced regularly. It is a credit to Steven and the team as this magazine is of great benefit to the disability community and anybody else in community leadership in Toowoomba as they seek to connect people with the services they need.

I would like to mention the Toowoomba Business Disability Awards, which will be held next week. I congratulate Heather on her efforts in coordinating the Toowoomba Business Disability Awards. These awards are unique in that they seek to recognise disability support providers that employ, support and provide opportunities to people in the disability community. It is often the case that people are seeking employment, seeking to get the help they need, and there are very generous businesses in Toowoomba that want to help them and go out of their way to help them. I note the major sponsorship of Kim Stokes for these awards. At the opening of these awards, Kim spoke movingly about what they mean for the disability community and, by identifying these key employers, the opportunities they provide for the disability community.

The awards next week will be interesting. Mat Rogers and Chloe Maxwell will be the guest speakers. Prue MacSween will be the emcee, so the event should be quite entertaining and potentially controversial. I would like to acknowledge the other sponsors of the awards. Jason and Michelle Toombs of Renew Psychology and Rehabilitation work very closely with the disability community. It is great that they are sponsoring the awards. The other sponsors are McConachie Stedman; Classic Recruitment, with Joy Mingay; and Carers Queensland.

It would not be appropriate to speak about these awards without acknowledging the co-founders. Paul Wilson started these awards. He has a daughter with Down syndrome. I could not find a more passionate advocate for disability services in my region. Six or seven years ago Paul decided that the awards were necessary. I honour Paul's contribution. The other co-founder is David Wallis. It has been a testament to their efforts over the years that these awards have become such a success. It will be wonderful to share the evening with them. Last year, the guest speaker at the awards was Tim Ferguson, whom we all know well. He gave an extraordinary and moving contribution about his battle with MS. The event will be a wonderful evening. I look forward to honouring those businesses and the disability community that rely so much upon the opportunities they provide.