




Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2019

**DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. The National Disability Insurance Scheme represents a fundamental change to how services for people with a disability are funded and delivered. During transition to the NDIS, Queensland's quality and safeguards have continued to apply, including worker screening for disability workers, the yellow card system; the regulation of restricted practices; complaints management processes; the monitoring of investigations; the community visitor program under the Public Guardian Act 2014; and the coronial jurisdiction for deaths in care under the Coroners Act 2003.

The introduction of the NDIS has created a jobs boost in the individual support area for people caring for those with a disability. The NDIS client is able to choose who cares for them and has control as to how their individual funding is used. This has created an opportunity for disadvantaged jobseekers to undertake formal training to gain nationally recognised and vocational qualifications through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which aims to bring much needed job market opportunities and skills support to the Rockhampton region, with all participants graduating job ready upon completion of the 17-week program.

I recently visited Multicap Rockhampton and met with Janeen Freeman, who is the regional manager, to discuss this great program and meet with the first 15 participants taking part in the program and I was able to congratulate them on their journey within the disability services sector. The Palaszczuk government has provided more than \$93,000 to Multicap through Skilling Queenslanders for Work to provide this training to 30 participants to gain the skills to support the health and community sector. I shared a story of when I first arrived in Rockhampton working for the department of housing in terms of the shortage of suitable housing for people with disability. It became a priority for me to secure additional funding for four-bedroom dwellings as either four-bedroom detached housing or two-by-two bedroom duplex accommodation for some of our most vulnerable. Over the next few years I was able to provide about a dozen new dwellings that were used for housing with shared support for up to four tenants.

I also understand the importance of the role of the disability support worker and I know that it takes a special person to work and genuinely care for the client. It was my pleasure to meet such a wonderful group. There are numerous support organisations providing services to people with disability in my area. I know that Multicap has been delivering services and support to people with disabilities, particularly those with high and complex support needs, for over 55 years. It currently has over 900 highly skilled staff who support over 1,500 people across Queensland and northern New South Wales. The range of services it provides include supported independent living, short-term accommodation, centre based and community programs, assisted employment, social support activities, positive behaviour support and emergency accommodation responses. I commend the bill to the House.