




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.45 am): I rise to make a contribution on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. As speakers before me have said, the opposition will not be opposing this bill. However, the one element that I want to make a contribution about is the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. This is something that I have spoken to the shadow minister in depth about and I am glad he is here today, because he has run a very good campaign to have a very small win in the extension being granted. I want to tell the House about the importance of this scheme on behalf of a constituent of mine, a gentleman by the name of Brad Horrocks, who came to see me several weeks ago before the start of this campaign to make it public.

Brad put forward a reasoned, an articulate and a passionate argument as to why this scheme is so very important, particularly the component of the lift subsidy. Brad is a big supporter of the NDIS. He is someone who works hard. He has carers come in and assist him to be able to continue to make a contribution in the workforce. However, he told me about how the removal of this \$20 lift fee caused such angst. The reason is that when somebody with a disability rings to make a booking for a maxi taxi with disability compliance they know and the drivers know that it takes a longer period of time to get them in the vehicle. Brad knows that and he acknowledges that. The issue is that without that lift fee being paid some drivers who would know that the address of that home belongs to someone with a disability are less likely to take that job. They are less likely to take that job because they know that there is time associated with getting that person into the vehicle that they are not able to be reimbursed for.

Brad's issue was not with the NDIS. Brad's issue was not with the quantum of money available. Rather, his issue was the inability to be able to have that fee. He spoke about the dignity of not having a vehicle turn up because you are seen as a burden on their business, and he was not being critical personally of those taxidivers for making that decision. In fact, he said to me, 'I acknowledge they've got a business to run', but he did speak about how the absence of that lift fee would mean so much for somebody's quality of life and the ability for them to be able to ring up and get a vehicle turn up to pick them up in the same way that each and every one of us in this House has that right. I want to commend both the shadow minister and the Leader of the Opposition for the way they have put forward this case. I understand that there are always squabbles between different levels of government, but this is something that must be funded and it must be funded beyond the 12 months, because it is not just an issue of money.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Indeed, other states have stepped up to the plate for a longer period.

It is not just a financial issue; it is an issue of somebody's dignity and respect and an understanding that the time of someone with a disability who wants to catch such a vehicle to go work, or go to the pub, or do the things that we need to do is as valuable as the time of somebody who is able-bodied who wants to do that. I also place on record my acknowledgement and congratulations to

my federal member on his appointment as the federal NDIS minister. I think having a Queenslander in that role certainly gives Queensland a major opportunity to be able to work well with the Commonwealth government. This is an important scheme and, if it is to be successful, state and federal governments need to work well together. Stuart Robert's portfolio is a very important one for service delivery. There is no more important service delivery for a government than to look after those who are less fortunate. That is the whole premise of this scheme and that is why we all want it to work. We all want any problems that arise to be ironed out.

I understand the reason that both sides of the House are supportive of this bill. It will deliver a sensible and necessary next step in the process. It is indeed vital that we give this scheme every opportunity to work. The LNP members look forward to seeing the issues that we have raised dealt with. The LNP will not oppose this bill. In fact, it will support this bill as it is an excellent step forward for those with high needs in our communities.