




Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2019

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

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. In doing so I say very proudly that Mount Ommaney is home to some of the most fantastic and world-class disability services in Australia. The electorate of Mount Ommaney is proudly home to Youngcare, located in Sinnamon Park, which, as we all know, has been doing amazing work for a very long time caring for young people with disability. It was a project that was championed by the former premier Anna Bligh very, very proudly. I am sure many of us in this House saw the *60 Minutes* story all of those years ago about Shevaune and her husband. Youngcare is Shevaune's legacy. I am proud to be the member for the electorate where that wonderful facility is situated and to see how Youngcare has grown over the years. I have visited many times and it is always wonderful to see the activities that are occurring there. In fact, Youngcare celebrated its 10th anniversary a little while ago. It is wonderful to see how that facility has come along. It does not stop there. We also have Montrose Access, which has recently relocated from its former premises on Consort Street to Darra where it can provide even more services. We have a Multicap as well.

In Mount Ommaney we know that the NDIS is something that affects each and every Queenslanders. I am incredibly proud to have not only some innovative service providers in my electorate but also some really strong advocates for disability services and the rights of persons with disability. Wendy Lovelace is a resident at Youngcare and has come to see me many times. She is a very outspoken advocate for disability services and is often featured in the media. I also have people who come to see me quietly as their local member, such as Sally and Jo. I will not mention their last names. I thank them for coming to see me. It is very timely that the member for Southern Downs referred to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme because it was that scheme that they came to see me about.

The Taxi Subsidy Scheme was due to finish because it was meant to fold in with the NDIS. There was meant to be an overarching program that covered the needs of everybody with a disability and we were meant to see that covered off. Unfortunately that simply has not been the case. Many members of parliament had constituents come to see them. The Minister for Main Roads did listen to our representations. I thank my constituents, particularly Sally and Jo, who did come to see me about this issue. Sally in particular explained that right now she is working three days a week and uses a taxi to get to and from work. Once the NDIS kicks in in its current form it would not be possible for her to continue to access all of the subsidies she currently does. She said how can she be put in a situation where she is no longer able to work the hours she currently works. She is going to have to cut back. Here is a person who has a disability who has a job she loves and was looking to have to cut back because she could not afford transport to and from work because her work was outside of public transport routes.

It is great to see that under the Palaszczuk government this subsidy will continue to be applied. A further \$6 million has been committed in the 2019-20 budget to continue that subsidy payment for people like Sally and Jo. It will continue to provide affordable transport for people with disability who have been medically assessed as unable to use other forms of subsidised public passenger transport. I am incredibly excited to see that the Palaszczuk government has taken this up.