




Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. The National Disability Insurance Scheme represents a fundamental change to how services for people with disability are funded and delivered.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** A key aim of the NDIS is to enable participants to have greater choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and in the planning and delivery of supports.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, will I wait until the member finishes her outrage?

**Mrs Stuckey:** I am being bullied by this minister.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Member for Currumbin, you have had your turn at speaking.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have just been accused of something that is completely wrong. I know that you are the Deputy Speaker at the moment. I ask that you control the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much for your advice, Minister. I will, as Deputy Speaker, continue to do my very best to control the House. We will move on now to the member who has the call.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I am not sure where I was up to, so I might just start from the beginning. I rise to contribute to the debate on the disability—

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** She is at it again, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, you are now warned.

**Mrs GILBERT:** The National Disability Insurance Scheme, NDIS, represents a fundamental change to how services for people with disability are funded and delivered. A key aim of the NDIS is to enable participants to have greater choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and in the planning and delivery of supports. As part of the transition to the NDIS, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors has been progressing a whole-of-government legislative review to ensure that Queensland has the necessary legislation in place to support full scheme implementation of the NDIS from 1 July this year.

NDIS in my community was rolled out in the second tranche of service changeover. The department worked with their clients for a smooth transition. There were mixed feelings within families of potential new clients of NDIS. Some parents of adults with disability were afraid of the new system.

They had always been told by the department what they were entitled to and how it would be delivered. Although the packages that they were getting were not always tailored or most suitable for their child, they valued having someone else to guide them through the world of raising a child to adulthood with a disability. They were afraid of change. On the other hand, young parents at a playgroup for children with disabilities were excited about being able to build a package that met the needs of their child to help shape a meaningful future that reflected their child's personality and talents.

During the transition to the NDIS, Queensland's quality and safeguards framework continued to apply to the NDIS participants. From 1 July 2019 Queensland will become a participating jurisdiction, meaning that the functions and powers of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission become operational in Queensland. The bill makes legislative changes to reflect new roles and responsibilities of the Queensland government, the National Disability Insurance Agency and the NDIS commission.

The NDIS, as we all know, services one of the most vulnerable group of people in our community. It is necessary to put as many protections in place as possible to ensure their safety. That is why legislation to commence operations of nationally consistent NDIS worker screening in Queensland is included in this bill. By 30 June this year there are expected to be 50,000 Queenslanders with a disability who have transitioned to the NDIS. The many service providers who have a long history in the disability service arena and the newcomers providing an opportunity for a rich variety of choice will be able to be registered by the NDIS commission. The commission will have the sole oversight and responsibility for registered providers. Queensland, though, will still have oversight of worker screening and authorisation of the use of restrictive practices and operating the community visitor function.

In my region there are quality service providers who are working in disability services. At the end of the day each service is only as good as the quality of its workers. One such service is the Endeavour Foundation, which provides supported living and runs workshops giving adults a range of employment opportunities with supported skill development. An Endeavour volunteer, Kathryn Andrews, breaks down barriers in the community to involve disabled adults in mainstream experiences. There are monthly discos and involvement in the local Rugby League and soccer competitions. Bec Nicol and her team have been running a supportive kitchen for a number of years teaching cooking skills. There are many integrated services such as Engedi, Multicap, Life Without Barriers and Blue Care just to name a few. Crossroad Arts, a multidisciplinary arts studio, is engaging people with disability in many expressions of art. Their productions feature in Mackay's famous Festival of Arts.

As I have said, services are only as good as the workers involved. The worker screening in Queensland is one of the most robust in Australia. Once the NDIS worker screening is in place, the clearance will be portable across the country. Worker screening information will be shared across jurisdictions and service providers. This will benefit services in remote, rural and regional centres. They will have access to the same information as major centres. People who have been excluded through the screening process will not be able to hide within the system by relocating to different areas of the country. These changes are necessary. I commend the bill to the House.