




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

MOTION

Federal Morrison Government

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.43 pm): I support this motion. I draw the House's attention to the neglect and abuse experienced by our senior Queenslanders as a result of a failed aged-care system under the Scott Morrison LNP government. The Morrison government have now neglected our older Australians and the aged-care system for the best part of a decade. On their watch we are witnessing an aged-care crisis marred by underpaid and exhausted workers and the neglect of aged-care residents due to an underfunded and neglected system. Queenslanders deserve better. The seniors who helped build this country deserve better. Queensland aged-care workers, who are fighting for improved conditions and their fair share in wages, deserve better.

As disability minister, I hold grave concerns about the crisis in the federally run NDIS, and I am not the only one. I share that concern with every other state and territory in this nation, including the Liberal run states. Despite the fact that the Queensland government contributes more than \$2.2 billion a year to support NDIS for Queenslanders, Queenslanders continue to struggle to access the supports they need to live a good life. I regularly hear appalling accounts of aged-care and NDIS participants languishing in hospital beds instead of being moved to more appropriate care in the community, a level of care and dignity that they deserve. I know of one NDIS patient who waited in a hospital bed for 11 months because of the bureaucratic red tape of the NDIS.

Thanks to Scott Morrison's mismanagement of the NDIS, there are more than 500 long-stay patients struggling to transition out of Queensland hospitals into NDIS supported accommodation. Some SDA providers have been waiting hundreds of days to get patients out of hospitals and into appropriate housing because of the failure of the NDIS. These are properties that are built, that are ready to roll, that have clients earmarked to go into them and it takes hundreds of days. In fact, I heard of one interstate that took 590 days to get a person shifted in there. Absolutely disgraceful! Taxpayers make their contribution and we want our fair share of returns.

Scott Morrison's tired government has run out of ideas. They do not value the NDIS. They inherited one of the best life-changing capacity-building policies of our time and they have squandered it. They have turned it into a massive, overburdened, overregulated disaster, which is almost directly opposite to its original values.

Yet again voters in Queensland are heading to the polls with that bitter taste in their mouths; they know they have been duded. They have been done over again by the Scott Morrison government and denied our fair share in funding. Queenslanders with a disability deserve better. NDIS workers deserve better. Investors wanting to build SDAs deserve better.