



Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Action Week; Armstrong, Ms P

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.00 am): This week is Disability Action Week and this year's theme is 'Workforce diversity: open up to opportunity'. As this week is set aside to acknowledge people with disability, I take this opportunity to announce the release of Queensland's Disability Plan 2022-2027: Together, a better Queensland. The plan gives effect to Queensland's commitments under Australia's Disability Strategy and amplifies the Palaszczuk government's commitment to an inclusive Queensland.

Queensland's Disability Plan sets out a strategy to achieve good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders with disability. This is the first plan since the state's transition to the NDIS. It builds on the former plan, titled All Abilities Queensland, and recognises the contributions and valuable insights of people with lived experience of disability. That is why this plan was co-designed with people with disability. It puts their lived experiences and needs at the centre of all future action. We will champion people with disability to be central to design and decision-making on all things that impact their lives.

Queensland's plan aligns with Australia's Disability Strategy. It highlights seven priority areas for action: employment, inclusive homes, safety, community support, education, health and community attitudes. The plan acknowledges the unique aspects of the state's peoples, regions and diversities, and helps ensure that the more than 900,000 Queenslanders with disability have an opportunity to reach their full potential.

Creating a disability-inclusive state is a job for everyone, not just a job for the government. In the spirit of Disability Action Week, I encourage all local governments, industries, businesses, organisations and communities to commit to working collectively with people with disability to improve access, employment and inclusion. The plan has a framework for action. It will measure outcomes and impact, consider human rights and look at long-term cultural and systemic changes to make a meaningful impact in the lives of Queenslanders with disability. I look forward to working with the Queensland Disability Advisory Council, QDAC, to action Queensland's Disability Plan alongside my ministerial colleagues, industry and Queensland communities.

To round out Disability Action Week, this Friday, my colleague Minister Farmer and I are participating in the Queensland with Disability Network online employment forum. I look forward to hearing the perspectives of people with disability and industry on how Queenslanders can play their role in creating an inclusive Queensland.

While I have this opportunity it would be remiss of me if I did not thank Paige Armstrong, the outgoing CEO of QND, Queenslanders with Disability Network, for her years of service to the Queensland disability sector. I wish her all the best for her retirement, commencing on Friday.