

Speech By

Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Services, Federal Government Reforms

Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.20 pm): Just before we walked into the House today, Minister Mark Butler stood up in the National Press Club and outlined the runaway train the NDIS has become under their watch, while also decoupling the carriages and sending them to the states. This is the biggest cost-shift we will see from the federal government to the states with regard to NDIS reform, with little detail and once again little consultation. Design failures by the former Labor government that established the NDIS, combined with the current Labor government's failure to regulate, have allowed dodgy, shonky individuals and companies to take advantage of those with a disability across the state. It will be our state and the other states and territories that will pay for those failures.

The eligibility criteria will be changed under the reforms outlined by Minister Butler, but once again there was no detail. Families who are living with anxiety right now due to their children having autism or developmental delays do not know where their supports will come from in the future. I can say, on the back of Mr Butler's announcement, that that anxiety and uncertainty has now expanded to every adult in the disability sector, as well as their families and carers.

Our message to the federal government is that we want to see reform of the NDIS but we do not want to see cost blowouts. If they do their job of the heavy lifting then the states and territories will conduct ourselves in the interests of people with disabilities. The minister spoke about genuine partnership and goodwill. We have not signed the Thriving Kids agreement because the state holds firm in our belief that there will be a significant disadvantage to participants right across our state, particularly young people in rural, regional, remote and First Nations communities, because of these reforms. Mr Butler outlined that local support systems need to be rebuilt by the states and territories, yet it was the federal government which determined that disability would be their responsibility. Well, here is some news for the federal government: these systems do not exist and there will be a great cost to our state to rebuild them to ensure we are there to support families and children with disabilities.

I want to thank the disability advocates across the state and nation, in particular QDN and others I spoke with just before I entered the House. The federal government have done nothing but increase the level of stress and anxiety to participants without any detail. Our state is committed to working in genuine partnership and we will always do that in the interests of Queenslanders.