

Question on Notice

No. 579

Asked on Wednesday, 15 July 2015

MR DE BRENNI asked the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland (HON C O'ROURKE)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister inform the House of the potential benefits that Springwood residents will be able to enjoy under the NDIS system?

ANSWER

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a once in a generation social reform and the biggest human and social investment since the introduction of Medicare by the Whitlam Government in 1975.

The NDIS will give the approximately 1200 people with disability in the Springwood electorate, choice and control over how, when and where, their supports are provided and from whom they purchase their supports. Participants will be able to access a wider range of supports to help them achieve their goals and aspirations and to participate in everyday life. It is a more flexible, whole-of-life system of support that is tailored to each individual's goals.

When the scheme is fully implemented in 2019, it is estimated that around 97,000 people with disability in Queensland will be supported by the scheme; almost double the current number.

The NDIS will inject \$4 billion per year of Commonwealth and State funding into the Queensland economy. As a result of this massive investment, the Queenslanders with disability will become a powerful group of consumers who will shape a new economic pillar.

The NDIS will provide new opportunities for existing and new businesses, including those in Springwood, that want to capitalise on the opportunities arising in this emerging market. Modelling indicates that approximately 13,000 additional jobs will be created in Queensland at full-scheme implementation. These jobs are important to the people of Springwood and all regions across Queensland.

The NDIS will be progressively rolled out in Queensland over a three year period from July 2016 to 2019. The exact timing of when each region—including the Springwood electorate—will transition to the NDIS is currently being finalised through Bilateral Agreement negotiations between the Queensland and Australian governments. We will announce Queensland's plan for a phased rollout when agreement is reached later this year.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to the success of the NDIS in Queensland. The 2015–16 State Budget includes \$6.6 million for NDIS readiness initiatives intended to prepare Queenslanders for the transition. The Queensland Government will spend a total of \$868 million to prepare for and transition to the NDIS by 2019.

My department has recently developed an online calendar where people in Springwood can search to see the timing and location of NDIS events in their local area. The calendar lists Queensland Government events, National Disability Insurance Agency events, NDIS participant readiness activities funded by the Queensland Government, events hosted by service providers, community organisations and other groups.

The calendar is an innovative tool allowing people to search for events by region or audience (people with disability, service providers, or carers). The calendar is available on the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services NDIS website at <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis>.