



**Hon Tim Nicholls MP**

Member for Clayfield

**Treasurer and Minister for Trade**

TRY-03180

06 MAR 2013

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2013 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2053-13 presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly regarding support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

I wish to advise that the Queensland Government is committed to improving the lives of people with a disability and is determined to ensure people with a disability, their families and their carers get the support and assistance they deserve.

Along with all other jurisdictions, Queensland has signed up to an Intergovernmental Agreement on the NDIS Launch; endorsed the establishment of a Standing Council on Disability Reform to oversee work towards an NDIS; and endorsed the high level principles for the NDIS.

On 12 December 2012, the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, Premier committed to significantly increase Queensland's disability and support services up to \$1.77 billion in 2018-19.

This commitment includes \$868 million additional funding over the period 2014-15 to 2018-19 (\$50 million in 2014-15; \$105 million in 2015-16; \$165 million in 2016-17; \$235 million in 2017-18; and \$313 million in 2018-19). The Government has also committed to grow existing funding from 2015-16 at a rate of 4.5 per cent per annum to account for inflation and population changes.

Queensland has consistently argued that a long term NDIS requires the Australian Government to fund the significant additional cost, consistent with the recommended funding model put forward by the Productivity Commission.

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With Queensland now having made a major commitment to increase its funding for disability services by 2018-19, Queensland is looking to the Australian Government to commit to funding the balance of the cost of the NDIS.

Starting from July 2013, the first stage of an NDIS will commence launch sites in South Australia, Tasmania, the Hunter in NSW and the Barwon area of Victoria, while the Australian Capital Territory will commence in July 2014. The Australian Government has committed one billion over four years to progress the NDIS launches. Of this funding, only \$342.5 million is allocated for individualised support for people with a disability, while approximately \$664 million is allocated for start-up costs for the scheme. The experience from the NDIS launch sites will inform future work with the Australian Government to develop a detailed NDIS implementation plan for Queensland.

In the meantime, Queensland is committed to strengthening frontline disability services in Queensland to get our state ready for the NDIS. We are implementing a range of disability services that include looking at ways to give people greater flexibility and control over their disability funding through the Your Life Your Choice initiative. Your Life Your Choice self-directed support is a funding approach which enables eligible people with a disability and their families to have authority, choice and control over their disability supports and services.

Ongoing Queensland Government initiatives will ensure that Queensland is well prepared for the significant reforms that the NDIS will bring to the way people with a disability receive supports and services.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing the concerns of the petitioners to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Tim Nicholls

Treasurer and Minister for Trade