



Hon Tracy Davis MP
Minister for Communities, Child Safety
and Disability Services

Our reference: COM 12129-2012

19 OCT 2012

Level 13
111 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 806 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 07 3235 4280
Facsimile +61 07 3012 7704
Email ccsds@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter concerning petitions tabled in the Queensland Parliament about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The information below is in response to the following petitions regarding the NDIS:

- e-Petition (reference number 1937-2012) tabled on 13 September 2012
- paper petition (reference number 1968-2012) tabled on 11 September 2012
- paper petition (reference number 1977-2012) tabled on 13 September 2012
- paper petition (reference number 1978-2012) tabled on 13 September 2012.

The Queensland Government is committed to improving the lives of people with a disability, their families and their carers. We have always supported an NDIS, as recommended by the Productivity Commission, and want to be part of this national disability reform to give people better access to long-term care and assistance.

Queensland expressed interest in hosting an NDIS launch site if it was funded by the Federal Government. Sadly, because of the debt and terrible financial situation we inherited from the former Labor government, Queensland simply can't afford to fund a launch site at this time without adding to the State's debt. We will be closely watching these trial sites to prepare Queensland for the national launch of the NDIS, due in 2018.

The Queensland Government remains committed to participating in a fully developed and sustainable NDIS. For the NDIS to provide long-term, quality care for people with a disability, it must be funded by the Commonwealth, as recommended by the Productivity Commission.

The Queensland Government is already taking part in this national reform. We are working cooperatively with the Commonwealth and other state and territory governments to develop the NDIS. Currently, all jurisdictions are working to resolve issues relating to the funding, governance and design of the NDIS. These issues are due to be considered by the Prime Minister and Premiers at the Council of Australian Governments meeting later this year.

We currently spend \$959 million caring for Queenslanders with disabilities here in Queensland, while the Australian Government contributes less than \$300 million. There is no doubt that more needs to be spent on disability services in this state. We are making the tough decisions now to get Queensland back on track and we will be reconsidering our level of disability funding when the budget returns to the black in 2014–15.

In the meantime, we will continue to deliver essential frontline services to support people with a disability, their families and carers. We are implementing a range of disability measures as part of a \$38.7 million election commitment. This includes looking at ways to give people greater flexibility and control over their disability funding, such as the *Your Life Your Choice* trial announced in September 2012.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Michael Read, Chief of Staff in my office on 3235 4280.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tracy Davis MP
Minister for Communities, Child Safety
and Disability Services