



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

23 October 2020

Paige Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer, Queenslanders with a Disability Network
Via email: ceo@qdn.org.au

2020 Queensland state election - policy priorities

Dear Paige,

Thank you for your email of 12 October 2020, in which you included the Make Disability Count 2020 state election policy platform.

For your reference, the **Queensland Greens election platform for the 2020 State Election is online at:** <https://greens.org.au/qld/plan>. Our long-standing broader policy platform is here: <https://greens.org.au/qld/policies>.

Our policies on Disability issues are [here](#) for the state level and [here](#) at the federal level. Our federal spokesperson for [Disability Rights and Services](#) is Senator Jordon Steele-John, a person with lived experience of disability who has secured a Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Exploitation and Neglect of People with Disability.

The Queensland Greens support a significant investment into government services and infrastructure as part of Queensland's COVID-19 recovery. We have a fully costed plan to build 100,000 public homes over the next 4 years, and to fully fund public health and education for all Queenslanders. This investment would create 21,000 additional hospital beds, see the additional hiring of 6,500 more nurses and 3,000 more doctors, and establish 200 new Community Health Clinics with bulk billing GPs and specialists. It would also see state schools be fully funded, with additional resources, more teachers, and smaller class sizes benefiting all children across Queensland.

We believe that all people have a right to independence, self-determination and choice in their lives. People who experience physical, intellectual, cognitive and/or psychiatric disability, and their families and carers, have the right to actively participate in all levels of policy, service planning and delivery and evaluation, including their own.

Here in Maiwar, I have worked hard to advocate for people with disability on local, state and federal issues, both at an individual and systemic level. I have assisted constituents in accessing the NDIS, the Queensland Community Support Scheme, and the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. I have also assisted parents in their advocacy for an inclusive education for their children, and helped constituents complete their applications for assistance dogs.

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I have and will continue to push for urgent accessibility upgrades to train stations in my electorate and across Queensland. I have and will continue to advocate for telehealth services to continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. I will continue to amplify the voices of people with disability wherever possible, such as publicly voicing concerns held by the disability community ahead of legislation to ban single-use plastics, including plastic straws.

We fully support the priorities outlined in your document.

Thank you again for sharing your priorities with us. I hope that this information is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Berkman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Berkman MP