



**MY DISABILITY
VOTE COUNTS**
ACT FOR INCLUSION

ADVOCACY KIT
FOR QDN MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS



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VOTE COUNTS**
ACT FOR INCLUSION

The 2022 Federal Election has been scheduled for the first half of 2022, so we need to make sure our voices and disability issues are put firmly on the national agenda this election campaign.

QDN has developed a Federal Election platform called My Disability Vote Counts: Act for Inclusion, outlining what we are asking political parties to consider as their disability policy. The election platform represents the important issues for members. We encourage you to take this platform and the tool kit resources and visit your local candidate.

QDN is calling upon candidates to adopt the recommendations in this platform, to lead with vision, to listen and act together and, if successful, to begin the job of acting on inclusion on a range of key disability issues immediately after the election.

QDN's attached election platform identifies nine key areas of priority commitment we are seeking from candidates in the federal election. These nine asks for commitment are informed by our 2,000 strong membership and support base, our 30 Local Support Groups across the state, and our projects and work across the key areas that impact upon the lives of people with disability.

QDN'S POLICY PLATFORM

QDN's nine priority areas for the Federal election are:



ACT

FOR AN NDIS THAT DELIVERS CERTAINTY, CONTROL AND CHOICE



ACT

FOR INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT



ACT

FOR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY



ACT

FOR INCLUSIVE, AFFORDABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING



ACT

FOR INCLUSIVE HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY



ACT

FOR SAFETY AND PRIORITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



ACT

FOR INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY



ACT

FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING



ACT

TO LOWER THE COSTS OF LIVING AND MOVE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY OUT OF POVERTY

There are a number of key documents in this kit which includes:

- This advocacy kit
- QDN's Federal Election Policy Platform
- Short summary of policy platform
- Images for social media

LET'S MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD!

There are a number of ways you can help make sure that the candidates at this election know that our disability vote counts and what we want them to act for to deliver on inclusion for people with disability. You can



Email your local candidates a letter and copy of QDN's Policy Platform



Call to talk with your local candidate



Meet with your local candidate to talk about what is important to you

You may also see candidates out campaigning on street stalls and this can be a good time to talk to them



Take a photo with the Act for Inclusion statement when meeting candidates



Email photo to QDN or post it on social media



Record yourself on video saying what is important to you and what actions for inclusion you want your local candidates to take

Your voice is powerful - it only takes a handful of local people speaking up about an issue to make politicians take notice.

By contacting your local candidate, you can make sure they know disability issues are important to their community.

We are asking all parties to commit to taking action on the important issues outlined in our policy platform. Some members may have never met with politicians or their local candidate previously, so we have put together some tips to make it easier.



MEET YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATE

Visit their office, write to them or call them to arrange a meeting. You can also catch them when they are out campaigning on street stalls. If you can organise a group of QDN members, supporters or family to come with you, great!

Remember to ask how much time they will give you for the meeting and who will be there. Once the meeting has been arranged, write an email confirming the details, who will be attending with you and what you want to talk about.

Writing to your local candidate

Write a short letter or email to your local candidate. We've included a letter template below if you would like to use it. A short well written letter or email is better than a long one. Politicians get lots of emails, so focus on the important message or story you want them to hear. Make sure you give them your name and details too. An important part of your letter or email is to call for action for inclusion. Ask the candidate for a reply and an interview. Ask for a commitment to explore your issues.

QDN will provide a list of details for candidates for the main parties once they are all confirmed.



GET PREPARED: MEETING YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATE

Background Information

Prepare some background information on the issue if you can. There are talking points further on to help. You don't have to know everything; the most important thing is letting them know what issues are important to you.

Talking from the heart – the power of sharing your story

Politicians want to hear about your lived experience and the lived experiences of people you know. Don't underestimate how powerful your story is!

Know what the main things you want to talk about are

Before you speak to your local politician or candidate, think about two or three stories you want to tell them. Also, write down two or three key messages you want them to hear and remember. Be clear and focussed about why you are meeting with them. Ask them for a commitment.



TIPS FOR MEETING WITH LOCAL CANDIDATES

A summary of a good approach for your meeting

1. Tell them why you are there.
2. Tell them the issues that are important to you and people with disability.
3. Talk about the solutions and what you can do to help them, like directing them to QDN for more information.
4. Don't forget to follow up – write a letter or email or phone to say thanks for meeting with you.

Explain who QDN is

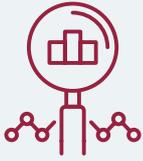
Something like: QDN is a network of, for, and by people with disability. The Network regularly brings members together to discuss the most social policy issues that impact upon their lives. QDN has over 2000 members and supporters across the state.

Be positive and call for action

Encourage your candidate to take up the issue of addressing QDN's nine election platform areas and recommendations to help bring about the change required. Share a story or your lived experience, which relates to one of the nine priority areas (this helps to make the issue real to the candidate). Explain the benefits for the candidate and his/her electorate. Be clear on the issue and its importance.

Establish yourself as a resource

Let your candidate know that you have lived experiences on this particular issue and that you can provide more information if they need it. Also explain why the issue is important to you and your community.



USEFUL STATISTICS FOR TALKING ABOUT DISABILITY

- Queensland has a population of approximately 5 million people, of which over 1 in 5 Queenslanders have a disability – more than approximately 900,000 people.¹
- An estimated 260,000 Queenslanders have a profound or severe disability.
- Approximately 102,500 Queenslanders with disability had entered the NDIS as of 31 December 2021.



ELECTORAL VOTING

For information on voting click [here](#) for the Australian Electoral Commission Website or call them on 13 23 26.

The Australian Electoral Commission will also have people at polling booths that can assist with some tasks involved in voting. You can find information for people with disability or mobility restrictions [here](#).

¹ Given data collection constraints as well recognising many people with chronic illnesses who have functional impairment and may or may not self-identify with having a disability. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/disability/people-with-disability-in-australia/contents/key-data-gaps/what-can-be-done-to-improve-the-evidence>

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/chronic-conditions-and-multimorbidity>



SOCIAL MEDIA

In the tool kit there is a fact sheet that summarises the main points in the QDN Federal Election platform document. There is also a selection of landscape images to print out on A4 or A3 paper. These images are the nine statements or headings in the election platform:

1. Act for NDIS that delivers certainty, choice, and control
2. Act for inclusive employment
3. Act for safety and wellbeing of people with disability
4. Act for inclusive, affordable and accessible housing
5. Act for inclusive health care for people with disability
6. Act for safety and priority of people with disability during the COVID-19 pandemic
7. Act for inclusive and accessible transport for people with disability
8. Act for inclusive education and training
9. Act to lower the costs of living and move people with disability out of poverty.

We encourage members to choose your favourite Act for Inclusion statement, print it out, and take a selfie with local candidates in the Federal Election, and email it to QDN or post it on social media.

And if you post your selfie on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, please use the hashtags and tags:

#ActForInclusion #QldPol

For Facebook: **@QueenslandersWithDisabilityNetwork**

For Twitter: **@QDNltd**

For Instagram: **@qdnorg**

We do ask that you don't speak on behalf of QDN when you post on social media. You can share your selfie posts with us so we can build a page and keep momentum going during this election campaign for people to share and like!

If you would like to also tag or hashtag political parties, here are their details. Note that some more candidates may still register after this document has been published:

Australian Labor Party (Queensland Branch):

@QLDLabor

[Facebook page Australian Labor Party \(QLD Branch\)](#)

[Twitter page Australian Labor Party](#)

[Instagram page Australian Labor Party \(QLD Branch\)](#)

Liberal National Party Queensland

@LNPQLD

[Facebook page Liberal National Party QLD](#)

[Twitter page Liberal National Party QLD](#)

[Instagram page Liberal National Party QLD](#)

Katter's Australia Party

@KAPteam

[Facebook page Katter's Australia Party](#)

[Twitter page Katter's Australia Party](#)

Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party

@OneNationAus

[Facebook page Pauline Hanson One Nation Party](#)

[Twitter page Pauline Hanson One Nation Party](#)

Australian Greens

[Facebook page Australian Greens](#)

[Twitter page Australian Greens @Greens](#)

Instagram page australiangreens

Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (QLD)

@SFFPQLD

Facebook page Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party QLD

[Twitter page Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party QLD](#)

[Instagram page Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party QLD](#)

Animal Justice Party

@AJP_QLD

[Facebook page Animal Justice Party](#)

[Twitter page Animal Justice Party](#)

[Instagram page Animal Justice Party](#)

Clive Palmer's United Australia Party

@UnitedAusParty

[Facebook page Clive Palmers United Australia Party](#)

[Twitter page Clive Palmers United Australia Party](#)

SAMPLE LETTER

Sample letter or email about disability issues requesting a meeting with a local candidate.

Dear [Candidate name],

I am writing to you as a constituent of [electorate] and as person with a disability to highlight key issues important to my friends, family and I when we go to vote in the Australian federal election in 2022.

Queensland's population is 4.9 million people, of which 17.7% or just less than 1 in every 5 Queenslanders have a disability - approximately 900,000 people.

ADD IN SOME PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF IF YOU WANT TO

We, along with our families, support workers and friends are a significant group in your electorate and across the state. Our Disability Vote Counts and this election, we ask every political party to Act for Inclusion.

In this election, it is important to me that the next Australian Government understands that my disability vote counts and that Queenslanders with disability want to see action and progress on the key issues that impact us.

I would like to learn more about your policies on these and other issues affecting people with disability. This information will assist me to make a decision about which candidate to support.

I am also a member of [Queenslanders with Disability Network](#), a network of, for, and by people with disability. The Network regularly brings members together to discuss relevant policy issues that impact upon our lives. I have attached a copy of the Federal Election Platform for your feedback.

I am seeking an opportunity to meet with you to hear your view on these important issues and share my perspective on how they affect local families, carers and our community.

I believe that if we work together, we can improve outcomes for people with disability in [electorate] and show the 900,000 Queenslanders with disability and their families that disability does matter at this election.

I look forward to speaking to you or a member of your staff soon to organise a convenient time to meet.

Yours sincerely

[Your full name]

[Your Address].