



Queensland Disability Alliance – 4 May

Election Forum

On 4 May 2022, nine state-wide organisations came together to host an online forum with over 200 participants and representatives from a range of political parties. The purpose of the forum was to hear how the key political parties standing in this Federal Election will deliver a more inclusive Australia and raise the disability issues that matter to people with disability, families, workers and the broader sector.

The nine organisations include Queenslanders with Disability Network, ADA Australia - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland, National Disability Services Queensland, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, Queensland Advocacy Inc., Parent to Parent Qld, QIDAN and the Queensland Collective for Inclusive Education.

Collectively, our organisations are representative of key stakeholders within the Queensland disability services sector, including people with disability, their families, service providers and advocacy organisations. We all share the common goal of building a more disability inclusive Queensland.

As discussed at the forum we are providing you a set of questions that reflect key themes running through the feedback and questions placed in the chat on the night. The questions are listed under key topic areas.

We are seeking your party's response to the questions by **close of business on Wednesday 18th May 2022**.

QUESTIONS

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Scheme access

- How will people who need additional help accessing the NDIS be supported, including people with diverse disabilities who are more marginalised due to their life/social situation and/or cultural background, people and have limited literacy skills and people needing formal assessments via allied health professionals with limited ability to pay for these?

NDIS Workforce

- We have a critical NDIS workforce shortage, including the need for a quality workforce, especially support workers, across the NDIA, LAC, allied health, disability and mental health services support workers – what is your strategy to address this?

Eligibility

People over the age of 65 to be able to access the NDIS

- What actions would your party take regarding people over 65 with disability who have significant functional impairment, however, are currently not eligible to access the NDIS because of their age. What would your party do to change this?



NDIS Plans

- Feedback is that NDIS plans are being reduced both in funding and support levels, that professional reports do not appear to be considered in plan review decisions re NDIS funding and that some NDIA Planners undertaking planning meetings lack appropriate experience. How will you improve the experience and outcomes for NDIS participants?

Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

- People with disability and their families are experiencing a range of challenges in taking appeals to the AAT – how will you ensure that NDIS participants have access to appropriate levels of support?

General NDIS Questions

- How will your party implement recommendations from previous reviews to improve overall scheme effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness and individual outcomes for participants?
- What commitments will your party make to continue to co-design and consult with people with disability, families, and the broader disability sector to deliver integration across disability and mainstream services?

Information, linkages and capacity building and peer support

- Will your party commit to continued funding for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building initiatives, for example, peer support models and leadership approaches? This is an essential component of the NDIS which focuses upon building individual and broad community services' capacity, towards better inclusion of people with disability.

For people with disability not eligible for the NDIS who are experiencing gaps in services and supports

- How will you ensure support to people with disability who are not eligible to access the NDIS including older persons and people with complex health conditions and significant functional impairments?

Disaster and emergency – people with disability

- People with disability experience a range of additional barriers before, during and after a disaster. How will your party ensure people with disability are leading in disaster planning – including their own plans; disability and community services can better support people to get continued supports, and emergency and disaster services build their capacity and confidence to better respond to people with diverse disabilities, so we don't leave any Australian behind before, during and after?

Digital Divide

- How will you make sure people with disability can get digital devices and increase people's digital literacy so they can use the devices to get essential services – like doctors' appointments, allied health services, groceries, medications, etc.

Inclusive Education

- How will you move away from segregated education and deliver on inclusive education?



Employment

- How will you ensure that the National Disability Strategy can achieve its goals to improve employment rates of people with disability, and that the services can deliver outcomes?

Health

- How can we improve access to health, disability, and mental health services particularly in rural and remote areas of our state?
- What will you do to improve access to dental services for people with disability?
- How will you make mental health care more affordable and more accessible? What will be your strategic approach?

Disability Advocacy

- People with disability need access to adequate, independent advocacy across not only the NDIS and AAT processes but also mainstream services. How will you ensure increased individual and systemic advocacy support to Australians with disability?

Accessible, Affordable Housing

- How will you address accessible, affordable housing for people with disability across a broad range of services including homelessness, domestic and family violence, NDIS housing options?

Disability Support Pension

- How will you improve the rate of payment in relation to the Disability Support Pension and provisions around working arrangements that could assist with current workforce shortage issues?

COVID-19

- How will your party work to ensure that the experiences of people with disability during the COVID 19 pandemic are not repeated: including your approach to workforce vaccinations and access to testing, personal protective equipment by both people with disability and their workforce?

Young people in care

- For young people with disability who have been in foster care and child safety systems, along with adults with disability who have their children taken into these systems, how will you ensure their needs for support in these systems are addressed?

National Autism Report

- The Senate Committee on Autism has just released its final report. How will your party implement the main recommendations of the report, including commitment to a National Autism Strategy (NAS)?

Public Trustee Report 4 Corners – National Standard and Approach to Supported Decision Making:

- Will your party support a national supported decision-making scheme to help people with disability make their own choices and experience more choice and control in their own lives?



Disability Royal Commission:

- What will your party do to address key issues raised, and recommendations arising out of the Disability Royal Commission?

Once again, can we sincerely thank you for your participation in the QLD Disability Alliances Forum, and we look forward to your timely response to these questions.

Should you have any queries, please contact myself (mobile details below) or Steve Coulter, QDN's Communications and Media Officer on 0492 800 772.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige Armstrong".

Paige Armstrong
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Learn more about QDN's work [here](#) or QDN's business arm, QDeNgage [here](#).

A graphic with a dark blue background. On the left, there is a circular logo with a stylized "X" shape made of red and pink overlapping circles. Inside the circle, the text "MY DISABILITY VOTE COUNTS" is written in white, with "ACT FOR INCLUSION" underneath. To the right of the logo, the text "WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CANDIDATES KNOW WHAT YOUR DISABILITY VOTE WILL COUNT FOR?" is written in white. Further to the right, a red rounded rectangle contains the text "CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE QDN ELECTION CAMPAIGN" in white. At the bottom right, the QDN logo is displayed with its tagline "QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK" below it.