# 2024 State Government Election Advocacy kit



## 2024 State Government Election advocacy kit for QDN members and supporters

The 2024 State Government election is on Saturday 26 October 2024, so we need to make sure our collective voices and the concerns of the disability issues are put firmly on the agenda across the state.

QDN has developed a State Government Election Platform outlining QDN’s priority areas and what we are asking candidates to consider as their disability priorities. The State Government Election Platform represents the important issues for QDN members. We encourage you to use the platform and the advocacy kit.

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.

QDN’s State Government Election Platform identifies several key areas of priority commitment we are seeking from candidates. These asks for commitment are informed by our 2,500+ strong membership and support base, our Peer Support Groups across the state, and our projects and work across the key areas that impact upon the lives of Queenslanders with disability.

## State Government Election Platform and priority areas

QDN is seeking commitments from all candidates running in the 2024 Queensland Government election to:

1.1 Engage with people with disability, their families and carers over the next four years throughout every stage of the process to co-design implementation of priority disability reforms arising from the NDIS Review and Disability Royal Commission.

1.2 Invest in leadership development of Queenslanders with disability.

1.3 Invest in peer leadership and peer support as part of the Foundational Supports Service System for Queenslanders with disability, their families, carers and other supports.

1.4 Provide sufficient funding for individual and systemic advocacy in Queensland to support disability reforms.

1.5 Engage with the disability community to co-design a comprehensive Disability Inclusion and Accessibility Competency Framework to more clearly define and enable agencies to competently operationalise disability inclusion.

1.6 Implement disability training for all Queensland Government staff including cultural competency and conscious and unconscious bias training.

2.1 Build and invest in a targeted Foundational Supports Service System and disability ecosystem for all people with disability across Queensland, including home and community supports, targeted supports for adults with psychosocial disability, early supports for families and children and transition supports for young people.

2.2 Build and invest in a general Foundational Supports Service System including assistance to navigate the support system, information and advice, peer support and advocacy for individuals, families and communities.

2.3 Agree to and implement NDIS Review recommendations and actions relevant to the state government to contribute to a unified system of support and approach to disability rights, discrimination and inclusion legislation.

3.1 Invest in specialist disability supports for Queenslanders with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS and require supports, equipment or aids.

3.2 Provide accessible voting options for Queenslanders with disability by improving voting processes to embed inclusion and enable all people with disability the ability to access independent, secret and verifiable voting.

4.1 Invest in and increase disability employment and economic security for Queenslanders with disability. This is underpinned in the public sector by the *Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2021-25*.

4.2 Fund targeted small business grants to support employment of Queenslanders with disability in small business, for commencement from 1 July 2025.

4.3 Deliver inclusivity in supply chains for people with disability. These supply chains must embed co-design principles, set and implement targets, build business capability in inclusive employment and grow and develop to take to scale new and emerging businesses owned or led by people with disability for social, economic and environmental impact.

4.4 Implement the recommendations in [*Game Changers: Developing an inclusive employment legacy from the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games*](https://qdn.org.au/our-work/game-changers-report/) developed by Urbis and QDN released in May 2024.

4.5 Implement the recommendations in [*Breaking The Glass Ceiling And Smashing The Legacy Of Low Expectations,*](https://qdn.org.au/our-advocacy/breaking-the-glass-ceiling-and-smashing-the-legacy-of-low-expectations/) *a QDN* position paper on the economic security of women with disability in Queensland.

5.1 Implement targeted measures to reduce school suspensions and exclusions for students with disability including investment in multi-tiered systems of support.

5.2 Invest in innovative transition programs that improve pathways for young people with disability from school to employment or further education.

5.3 Invest in mandatory education for teachers to identify, support and engage young carers in the classroom.

5.4 Invest in mandatory disability awareness training including conscious and unconscious bias training for all Queensland Education staff including teaching staff, disability support staff and teacher aides.

5.5 Re-establish the Ministerial Taskforce on Inclusive Education, which provided recommendations to government in 2004. This re-established Taskforce should focus on reforms from the Disability Royal Commission and broaden the scope to explore achievements and challenges in education across all levels. Taskforce membership should include people with disability, their representative organisations and relevant education stakeholders with inclusive education subject matter expertise.

6.1 Increase the supply of safe, affordable and accessible housing that meets Silver Liveable Housing Design Standards under the National Construction Code. This includes retrofitting legacy housing stock and implementing standards across all new builds.

6.2 Increase rental assistance to Queenslanders with disability struggling to keep up with rent increase and other costs of living and continue investment in delivery of the National Rental Affordability Scheme or similar rental support activities in Queensland beyond 30 June 2025.

6.3 Establish a tenancy rights education program co-designed and co-delivered by people with disability that builds knowledge and capacity of residents in supported accommodation.

6.4 Improve enforcement of tenancy rights, including providing support for people with disability to lodge complaints.

6.5 Adopt the [Make Renting Fair in Queensland](https://makerentingfairqld.org.au/) campaign reforms.

6.6 Expand eligibility criteria for the Queensland home modification scheme, Home Assist Secure, to enable minor modifications of housing for people with disability for accessibility.

6.7 Co-design and co-deliver a Disability Housing Support Hub under [*Partnering for inclusive housing with Queenslanders with disability 2024-2027*](https://www.housing.qld.gov.au/news-publications/strategies-plans/disability-housing-action-plan)(*Partnering for inclusive housing)*.

6.8 Continue investment to ensure residents with disability across all housing types are aware of their housing options, and equipped, empowered and supported to make housing choices.

6.9 Improve home ownership rates for people with disability through innovative financing options and improved shared equity approaches.

6.10 Adopt and action recommendations in the Community Support and Services Committee [report on the Inquiry into the provision and regulation of supported accommodation](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/docs/find.aspx?id=5724T904). QDN must continue to be engaged in this work, through leading co-design and implementing recommendations.

7.1 Implement justice reform recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission and NDIS Review in Queensland, including reforms relating to restrictive practices.

7.2 Design and implement a dedicated Domestic and Family Violence Targeted Action Plan for disability under Queensland’s [*Domestic and family violence prevention strategy 2016-2026*](https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/not-now-not-ever/resource/008db60d-06e9-4702-bb87-48be367edf93).

7.3 Provide tailored support and advocacy assistance to women with disability involved in the child safety system, ensuring their rights are upheld, their needs are met effectively, and families are supported to stay together.

7.4 Invest in initiatives for people with disability to be fully prepared for emergency events, and included in state disaster planning, preparedness, response and recovery to ensure systems are inclusive.

7.5 Amend Section 216 of the Criminal Code.

7.6 Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and stop detaining young people in watchhouses.

8.1 Review and audit current patient data systems to establish recording mechanisms for key disability identifier information. This is to ensure all health workers and health professionals can deliver inclusive, timely, quality healthcare that meets patient's needs. This includes data that identifies intersectional needs and disadvantage including First Nations peoples, the LGBTIQA+ community, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people, and women with disability.

8.2 Increase availability of accessible and inclusive healthcare and mental healthcare that meets the needs of all people with disability who may identify as women with disability, LGBTIQA+, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and/or First Nations. This includes expanding telehealth access.

8.3 Increase targeted health care for people with intellectual disability through expanding remit and investment in the Queensland Centre for Excellence in Intellectual and Developmental Disability Mental Health to focus on physical health and wellbeing.

8.4 Establish an Integrated Response Pathway so supported accommodation residents can access allied, mental health and health supports including case management.

8.5 Improve pathways to transition people with disability who are clinically well out of hospital, residential aged care or other settings into appropriate housing.

9.1 Increase disability representation, especially in leadership roles, to increase the public awareness of Queenslanders with disability who make diverse contributions to Queensland communities.

10.1 Fund programs that deliver devices, data and build the digital skills of people with disability.

10.2 Ensure that government, business and service providers adhere to best practice digital access, user friendly platforms and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

10.3 Prioritise co-design and user testing by people with disability for any public-facing artificial intelligence systems used by the Queensland Government and public services to ensure that systems remain digitally accessible, and bias is not creating issues for inclusion of people with disability.

11.1 Update the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (2002) including user testing by people with disability to provide feedback on implementation of measures.

11.2 Commit ongoing funding for the Queensland Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) beyond 2025, with re-evaluation of program support in a cost of living crisis.

11.3 Introduce mandatory public reporting for taxi companies to report on average wait times, available wheelchair accessible taxis and number of complaints.

11.4 Develop a regional and rural accessible transport strategy.

11.5 Legislate protections to make pedestrians safe through the regulation of speed and geo-locking for e-scooters, e-bikes and other mobility devices.

12.1 Commit to engagement and co-design with people with disability in the planning and delivery phases to deliver a world-leading accessible and inclusive Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

12.2 Commit to legacy accessibility and inclusion measures beyond the 2032 Games that include uplift for housing, employment, health and wellbeing, transport, public infrastructure, tourism and sport.

## Let’s make our voices heard!

There are several 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 within your local community. You can:

1. Email candidates a letter and copy of QDN’s 2024 State Government Election Platform
2. Call to talk with candidates
3. Meet with a 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
4. Take a photo with the State Government Election Platform when meeting candidates – be sure to email a photo to QDN or post it on social media
5. Record yourself on video saying what is important to you and what actions for inclusion you want candidates to take.

Your voice is powerful - it only takes a handful of people speaking up about an issue to make candidates take notice. By contacting candidates, you can make sure they know disability issues are important to their community.

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

## How to find a candidate

When you are getting ready to vote you will need to find who candidates are, how to vote and where you can vote.

You can look online on the Electoral Commission Queensland website here: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/election-events/2024-state-general-election> to:

1. Check your enrolment
2. Find out which [State electorate](https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/where-is-my-electorate) you live in
3. Find your nearest polling booth
4. Apply for a postal vote and other voter assistance
5. See who has nominated
6. Learn how to vote
7. Read about election facts
8. Find resources and videos.

To find out which State Government area you are in, you can enter your address online at the Electoral Commission Queensland Website here: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/where-is-my-electorate>

## Meeting with candidates

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 candidates

Write a short letter or email to a 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. Ask the candidate for a reply and an interview. Ask for a commitment to explore your issues.

## Get prepared: Meeting with a 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 a 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 focused about why you are meeting with them. Ask them for a commitment.

## Tips for meeting with 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 what QDN is

Something like: QDN is a network of, by, and for people with disability. QDN regularly brings members together to discuss the most important issues that impact upon their lives. QDN has over 2500 members and supporters across Queensland.

#### Be positive and call for action

Encourage the candidate to take up the issue of addressing QDN’s State Government 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 priority areas (this helps to make the issue real to the candidate). Explain the benefits for the candidate and their electorate. Be clear on the issue and its importance.

#### Establish yourself as a resource

Let the 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 local community.

## Useful statistics for talking about disability

The 2024 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) by the Australian Bureau of Statistics has a number of interesting facts about people with disability in Queensland.

1. 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]](#footnote-2).
2. An estimated 306,400 Queenslanders of all ages have a profound or severe disability[[2]](#footnote-3).

Learn more by visiting the Australian Bureau of Statistics website here: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/disability/disability-ageing-and-carers-australia-summary-findings/latest-release>

## Electoral voting

For information on voting visit the Electoral Commission Queensland website here: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/election-events/2024-state-general-election>. You can also call them on 1300 881 665 or email them at ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au.

The Electoral Commission will also have people at polling booths that can assist with some tasks involved in voting. There are a range of services available to give people opportunity to vote and have your say. You can find out about Assisted Services for voting on the Electoral Commission website here: <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/how-to-vote/voter-assistance>

Find out more by reading QDN’s State Government Election Platform available here: [2024 State Government Election Platform - Queenslanders With Disability Network (qdn.org.au)](https://qdn.org.au/our-advocacy/campaigns/elections/2024-state-government-election-platform/)

## Sample letter

This is a sample letter or email about disability issues requesting a meeting with a candidate.

Dear [Candidate name],

I am writing to you as a resident of [suburb] and as a person with a disability to highlight key issues important to my friends, family and I when we go to vote in the 2024 Queensland State Election.

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[[3]](#footnote-4). An estimated 306,400 Queenslanders of all ages have a profound or severe disability[[4]](#footnote-5).

[Add in some personal information about yourself if you want to].

In this election, it is important to me that the next Queensland representative 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 (QDN) a network of, for, and by people with disability. QDN regularly brings members together to discuss relevant policy issues that impact upon our lives. I have attached a copy of the Queensland State Government 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 our area, and within our community 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].

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>; [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2024 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/disability/disability-ageing-and-carers-australia-summary-findings/latest-release) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [Disability statistics | People with disability | Queensland Government (www.qld.gov.au)](https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/community/disability-statistics) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. 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>; [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2024 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/disability/disability-ageing-and-carers-australia-summary-findings/latest-release) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [Disability statistics | People with disability | Queensland Government (www.qld.gov.au)](https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/community/disability-statistics) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)