

IT'S TIME TO ACT

2025 FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY KIT

FOR QDN MEMBERS
AND SUPPORTERS



2025 Federal Election Advocacy Kit for QDN Members and Supporters

The 2025 Federal Election will be announced soon 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 **IT'S TIME TO ACT** 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 seven key areas of priority commitment we are seeking from candidates in the federal election. These seven asks for commitment are informed by our 3,000 + strong membership and support base, our [32 Peer Support Groups - Queenslanders With Disability Network](#) 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 seven priority areas for the Federal election are:

- 1** It's Time To Act for a stronger system of support for all people with disability
 - 2** It's Time To Act for inclusive employment and greater financial security
 - 3** It's Time To Act to protect and promote human rights
 - 4** It's Time To Act to prioritise safety and wellbeing
 - 5** It's Time To Act for inclusive health care
 - 6** It's Time To Act for accessible and affordable housing
 - 7** It's Time To Act for safe and accessible transport
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There are several 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 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. 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 3000 + members and supporters across the state.

Be positive and call for action

Encourage your candidate to take up the issue of addressing QDN's seven election platform areas and recommendations to help bring about the change required. Share a story of your lived experience, which relates to one of the seven 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 your candidate know that you have lived experience on this 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

The [2022 Survey of disability, ageing and carers \(SDAC\)](#) by the Australian Bureau of Statistics has several interesting facts about people with disability in Queensland.

There is estimated over
5.5 million
Australians who have a disability.

Over
21.4%
of the population in Australia
who have a disability.¹

Queensland has a population of approximately
5.5 million



of which over 1 in 5 Queenslanders have a disability - more than approximately

1.2 million.

An estimated
435,700
of Queenslanders
of all ages have a
profound or severe
disability

¹ [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2022 | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)



Electoral Voting

For information on voting click <https://www.aec.gov.au/community/accessible-education.htm> 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 <https://www.aec.gov.au/assistance/>



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. It's Time To Act for a stronger system of support for all people with disability
2. It's Time To Act for inclusive employment and greater financial security
3. It's Time To Act to protect and promote human rights
4. It's Time To Act to prioritise safety and wellbeing
5. It's Time To Act for inclusive health care
6. It's Time To Act for accessible and affordable housing
7. It's Time To Act for safe and accessible transport

We encourage members to choose your favourite It's Time to Act 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.

If you post your selfie on Facebook, Instagram or X, please use the hashtags and tags:

#TimeToActForDisability

For Facebook: @QueenslandersWithDisabilityNetwork

For X: @QDNltd

For Instagram: @qdnorg

For LinkedIn: @QueenslandersWithDisabilityNetwork

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):

[Queensland Labor | Facebook](#)

[Australian Labor \(@AustralianLabor\) / X](#)

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

Liberal National Party Queensland

[Facebook page Liberal National Party QLD](#)

[LNP - Liberal National Party \(@LNPQLD\) / X](#)

[Instagram page Liberal National Party QLD](#)

Australian Greens

[The Australian Greens | Facebook](#)

[Australian Greens \(@Greens\) / X](#)

[Australian Greens \(@australiangreens\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Katter's Australia Party

[Katter's Australian Party | Townsville QLD | Facebook](#)

[Katter's Australian Party \(@the_kap_official\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party

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

[One Nation Australia \(@OneNationAus\) / X](#)

[Pauline Hanson \(@senatorpaulinehanson\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

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 a person with disability to highlight key issues important to myself, my friends and family when we go to vote in the Australian federal election in 2025.

Queensland has a population of approximately 5.5 million people, of which over 1 in 5 Queenslanders have a disability – more than approximately 1.2 million. An estimated 435,700 of Queenslanders of all ages have a profound or severe disability

[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. We want every political party to know **It's Time to Act.**

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 decide 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 1.2 million 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].

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