



**Steven Miles**

DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

28 October 2020

Ms Paige Armstrong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Queenslanders with Disability Network  
388 Turbot St  
SPRING HILL QLD 4000  
Email: ceo@qdn.org.au

Dear Ms Armstrong

Thank you for your letters regarding our policy commitments in the 2020 Queensland election, and your policy proposal *Nothing about us without us*. The Palaszczuk Labor Government's strong health response to the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we can now start to deliver our plan for economic recovery. This plan will support jobs, help small business, invest in Queensland's manufacturing industry, buy local, and bring forward new infrastructure.

I would also like to thank you for the key role you have played in co-ordinating information and support to Queenslanders with disability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government acknowledges the important work QDN does as a peak organisation for Queenslanders with disability including support around access to the NDIS, outreach work throughout the regions, peer to peer programs and disaster coordination and information - all built on the philosophy of nothing about us without us. We also acknowledge that while there are funded peak organisation for disability organisations there has not been one for Queenslanders with disability.

If re-elected a Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue funding QDN as the state-wide peak organisation that provides an independent voice for Queenslanders with disability through the next budget process.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has supported people with disability and the disability sector's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and we share the priorities you have outlined in your policy platform.

## 1. My Voice Matters

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will develop the next All Abilities Queensland Plan in collaboration with your organisation and people with disability by establishing an All Abilities Queensland Plan Working Party consisting of at least 50% people with disabilities. This Working Party will report to Government.

The Commonwealth Government should be funding both individual and systemic disability. The Queensland Government provides the Commonwealth Government with \$3.9 million per year, as part of its NDIS contribution towards advocacy funding. However, the Commonwealth Government has not continued the funding of systemic advocacy under the NDIS.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government understands the importance of advocacy for Queenslanders with disability and that is why we funded Queensland advocacy groups totalling \$9.2million over two years from 2019-20 to 2020-21, despite giving the Commonwealth \$3.9 million per year for it to be funded by the NDIS.

To call the Commonwealth Government to account about not funding systemic advocacy, the issue of disability advocacy has been escalated to the Council of Australian Government (COAG) Disability Reform Council's work program as a priority for 2020. At the December 2019 Disability Reform Council meeting, it was agreed that the Commonwealth would lead, in conjunction with states and territories, a demand and gap analysis of independent disability advocacy and decision-making supports. The findings of this work will inform discussions on future arrangements for the funding of independent disability advocacy and decision-making supports. Advice is expected to be progressed to senior officials in October 2020 to support a paper progressing to Disability Ministers in mid-November 2020.

If a Palaszczuk Labor Government is re-elected, a briefing on the outcomes of the demand and gap analysis and, more importantly how independent advocacy will be funded into the future, will be provided to you.

Additionally, the Ministerial Disability Advisory Council has provided valuable advice to the Palaszczuk Labor Government and we would continue to value its input if re-elected.

## **2. My safety and wellbeing matters**

In 2019, the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) Framework and Toolkit, funded by the Palaszczuk Labor Government and developed by Queenslanders with Disability was launched. The Queensland DIDRR Framework and Toolkit provides a roadmap for people with disability, community and disability support services, and local disaster management to work together to co-design DIDRR innovations, implement, and evaluate their impact on decreasing risk and increasing the resilience of people with disability to disaster.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government supports strong safeguards to protect people with disability. A submission was made in September 2020 to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS on quality and safeguards. The findings to come out of the Committee will be important in looking at what the next steps to strengthen quality and safeguards will be.

In addition, when the Royal Commission into the Abuse of People with Disability brings down its findings, there will be opportunities for strengthening of safeguards.

If re-elected, a Palaszczuk Labor Government will work closely with QDN on continuing to strengthen safeguards.

## **3. My housing matters**

Thank you for your organisation's work on the Ministerial Housing Council Sub Committee on Housing for People with Disability. This Sub Committee is undertaking important work to address the housing issues, needs and solutions for people with disability and their families.

*Invest in the establishment of a community based online Housing Hub*

If re-elected, the Palaszczuk Labor Government will work collaboratively with your organisation, peak bodies, the private sector and other partners to improve the identification and promotion of

housing for sale or rent with accessible design features, including connecting people with a disability with others looking to share housing which meets their individual needs.

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

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is working to improve the home ownership rates amongst people with disability and the vulnerable by offering products that make it easier for housing tenants to enter the property market. When a housing property is put up for sale the existing tenant can purchase the home with assistance from the State Government. The tenant can purchase the property if they choose to with a Queensland State Housing Loan which doesn't require the tenant to pay for mortgage insurance.

Tenants can also access a Pathways Shared Equity Loan. This loan is an innovative option available to tenants in this situation to purchase part of the equity in their home. Once they purchase a share of the equity they no longer have to pay rent, although they are responsible for other home ownership costs such as council rates. Over time tenants who take up this loan are able to purchase more equity in the home and eventually become the full homeowner. The Palaszczuk Labor Government is committed to identifying innovative solutions and products that help to further improve home ownership rates amongst the vulnerable.

*Adopt the Making Renting Fair Alliance Queensland campaign reforms*

In 2018 and 2019 the Palaszczuk Labor Government undertook extensive consultation on potential reforms to the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*. In late 2019, the Queensland Government released *A Better Renting Future Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement* to seek feedback on proposed stage 1 reforms to improve renting in Queensland.

The COVID-19 pandemic required an immediate response to protect Queensland renters and on 24 April 2020, our government took action with the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020* which implemented a moratorium on evictions for rent arrears of residential tenants experiencing hardship resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. This measure was supported by several additional measures to protect tenant and property owner interests in COVID-19 impacted tenancies.

It was necessary and appropriate that our health response took precedence over the Better Renting Futures reform process. A re-elected Palaszczuk Government is committed to continuing the work we have started. We will continue to work in collaboration with the sector to deliver important reforms to Queensland's residential tenancy laws for renters and property owners to ensure Queenslanders' needs will be met now and into the future.

***Reform planning legislation and regulations to mandate inclusionary zoning so there are minimum quotas of accessible, affordable dwellings within areas of new supply***

The *Housing Strategy Action Plan 2017-2020* committed to construct at least 50% of public housing dwellings to the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Gold Level or Platinum Level standards, to increase accessibility and adaptability. The Palaszczuk Labor Government has exceeded this target with 1,365 dwellings having commenced construction during Years 1, 2 and 3 of the HCJP designed to either a Gold or Platinum level standard. This represented 70% of the total construction commencements under the Housing Construction Jobs Program so far.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is committed to its Housing principles for inclusive communities, which was developed jointly by Government in collaboration with Griffith University, National Shelter and your organisation.

#### **4. My digital connection matters**

The Palaszczuk Labor Government believes our future is a digital future. The plan we are delivering is not simply tweaking the way government services are delivered; it is a fundamental re-orientation. We are taking advantage of the opportunities provided by digital technology to make it easier for Queenslanders of all abilities and businesses to work with government by providing easy-to-use, accessible customer friendly websites, and simplified transactions through a single point of contact.

Part of this reform is the appointment of the Chief Customer and Digital Officer earlier this year. The Chief Customer and Digital Officer (CCDO) is leading the transformation of customer service delivery and fostering a customer-focussed culture, and the transformation of the government's governance, assurance and investment models.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will make sure that the CCDO has a consultative group consisting of people with disability, to examine the accessibility of digital reform for people with disabilities.

We have also committed \$500,000 for a program that connects Queenslanders with disability with Care Army Volunteers to make sure that they stay connected to their communities and supports, particularly during emergencies including health and natural disasters. The program will link them with devices, data and digital skills through further mobilisation of the Care Army and a collaboration between Queenslanders With Disability Network, GIVIT and Volunteering Queensland.

#### **5. My health matters**

We delivered a record \$19.2 billion health budget in 2019-20. We are building better hospitals and delivering more beds across Queensland.

Since 2015 we've hired 2,450 more Doctors and 7,358 more nurses and midwives, 2,025 more health professionals, and 812 more paramedics throughout Queensland.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will develop the next All Abilities Queensland Plan in collaboration with your organisation and people with disability by establishing an All Abilities Queensland Plan Working Party consisting of at least 50% people with disabilities. This Working Party will report to Government, this report should include how individual agency's Disability Service Plans reflect the needs of people with disability. For Queensland Health, this feedback would include issues for improving the healthcare of people with disability.

Additionally, a re-elected Palaszczuk Government would make sure that Queenslanders with Disability Network meet with the Health Minister to discuss the issues raised in its policy platform.

Unlike the LNP, we have committed to growing our frontline public sector workforce through fiscally responsible measures, including our recent announcement of our plan to hire a record 9,475 frontline health staff in Queensland including 5,800 nurses, 1,500 doctors, 475 paramedics and 1,700 health professionals.

Our record on health stands in stark contrast to the LNP who sacked 4,800 health staff, attacked doctors' pay and conditions and spent over \$500,000 a fortnight on highly priced contractors and consultants. Their \$77 million spent on consultants and advertising left 104,114 Queenslanders waiting for a specialist outpatient appointment beyond clinically recommended times.

#### **6. My education and employment matters**

Education is a key priority for the Palaszczuk Labor Government, as it always has been for Labor Governments. We are committed to ensuring all Queensland students are provided with a world-class education in an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity.

In 2016, the Palaszczuk Labor Government commissioned the Queensland Disability Review. The *Every student with disability succeeding plan* responds to the Review's recommendations.

In response to the review and the plan, the Inclusive Education policy was developed. This important policy ensures students from all backgrounds, of all identities and all abilities are able to attend their local school and for reasonable adjustments to be made to enable full participation in education. The policy also commits to continuing actions towards a more inclusive education system at all levels that is embedded in everyday practice.

This policy means that children and young people across Queensland, from all social, cultural, community and family backgrounds, and of all identities and all abilities can:

- attend their local state school and education centre and be welcomed
- access and participate in a high-quality education and fully engage in the curriculum alongside their similar-aged peers
- learn in a safe and supportive environment, free from bullying, discrimination or harassment
- achieve academically and socially with reasonable adjustments and supports tailored to meet their learning needs.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government acknowledges the importance of ensuring teachers, school leaders and educational support staff are provided with the training and professional development to ensure inclusive education in classrooms throughout Queensland. This includes:

- Scholarships for principals to do a Master of Education (Inclusive Ed)
- Employment of inclusion coaches to work with school leadership teams to assist in creating inclusive environments and improve educational outcomes.
- Significant and strong professional development and access to resources and expertise as provided through the Autism Hub and Reading Centre
- Regional Workforce Capability packages
- Building the evidence base on excellence in teaching and learning for students with disability through the Evidence Hub (an online platform for conversation, best practice examples of teaching, assessment etc.)

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has big plans for education. If re-elected we will implement a substantial plan for education in Queensland that will help our students, teachers, school leaders and parents. This plan includes:

- More frontline teachers and teacher aides. A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will deliver:
  - 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides over the next four years to meet student enrolment growth and maintain nation-leading teacher to student ratios and low class sizes
  - An investment of nearly \$20 million to set up a new Turn to Teaching internship program to provide 300 aspiring teachers with financial support, mentoring, and paid internship employment to complete their teaching qualifications and take up a guaranteed permanent position in a Queensland state school.
- Supporting the mental health and well-being of students. A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will:

- Employ 464 additional health and well-being professionals in our schools to support the mental health and well-being of our students in every state school in Queensland
  - Establish a pilot project placing general practitioners in 20 state secondary schools in areas of greatest need, providing access to medical care and advice free of charge in a familiar environment.
- Record investment in infrastructure. A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will boost infrastructure investment by \$1 billion through:
    - \$433 million building blitz on new classrooms and administration buildings
    - \$258 million for school halls and performing arts centres
    - \$180 million for capital projects at Catholic and Independent schools
    - \$110 million for infrastructure upgrades and renewal
    - \$50 million for shovel-ready school projects including playgrounds and fencing
    - \$20 million planning for new schools.
  - New and upgraded training facilities. A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will:
    - invest \$45 million to upgrade and build industry linked training facilities and trade training centres at 26 schools across Queensland, with a focus on the regions.
  - The creation of homework centres. A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will invest \$8 million over four years to establish Homework Centres in up to 120 primary and secondary schools across the state. The homework Centres will:
    - support good student study habits
    - boost student engagement and achievement
    - provide a suitable learning environment
    - provide help for parents who may not have the time or skills to give; and
    - provide additional learning time with peers
    - be of particular benefit for children in difficult circumstances who can be disadvantaged if no one can help them with their homework.
  - Free sanitary products for students. If re-elected, we will partner with Share the Dignity to provide vending machines with free tampons and pads at 120 schools across the state.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested almost \$250 million into our Back To Work program which has seen almost 2500 people with a disability find a job and Small Businesses are actively creating diverse jobs thanks to this program, a program that the LNP planned to cut at the last election.

Since reintroducing Skilling Queenslanders for Work, another program cut by the Newman government, more than 6000 people with a disability have received vital training to be job-ready.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue to support individuals and families right across Queensland to ensure they can access the opportunities to gain the skills and training they need to get a job, and are not left behind as we continue to work towards economic recovery.

## 7. My justice matters

The Palaszczuk Labor Government welcomed the Royal Commission into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability as an opportunity to achieve greater inclusion and accessibility and strengthen protections.

We have committed to cooperate with the Royal Commission to the fullest extent possible and monitor the progress of the Royal Commission closely.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will consider all relevant recommendations from the Royal Commission and publicly report on acceptance and implementation.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will also give consideration to the development and implementation of a data reporting system that identifies people with a disability who are interacting with the criminal justice system.

The *Human Rights Act 2019* commenced in Queensland on 1 January 2020. The Act protects fundamental human rights drawn from international human rights law. This means fairer laws, policies and practices in government's day-to-day dealings with the community.

Public entities, as defined under the Act, are bodies such as government departments and agencies, public service employees, police officers and Ministers, as well as other organisations that perform functions of a public nature on behalf of the state. The Act requires public entities to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights. Each government department is responsible for ensuring they are compliant with the Act.

While we note your comments, a re-elected Palaszczuk Government declines to amend section 216 of the *Criminal Code*. The offence created in section 216 is designed to protect people with an impairment of the mind from sexual abuse. The offence defines the circumstances in which the offence does not apply.

On the issue of the age of criminal responsibility, the Palaszczuk Labor Government understands that this issue generates robust debate within the community. In July 2018, the Report into Youth Justice by Mr Bob Atkinson AO APM (Atkinson Report) was publicly released. The Atkinson Report contains 77 recommendations, including that the Queensland Government advocate for national consideration of increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility with the aim of achieving a uniform approach between the states and territories, subject to national agreement by state and territory governments and a comprehensive impact analysis and the establishment of needs based programs and diversions for 8 - 11 year old children engaged in offending behaviour (recommendation 68). The Queensland Government response to the Atkinson report can be found at: <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/youth-justice/atkinson-report-youth-justice>.

On 27 July 2020, the Council of Attorneys-General noted the work of the Working Group to date and noted that the Working Group identified the need for further work to occur regarding the need for adequate processes and services for children who exhibit offending behaviour. A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue to monitor the ongoing national work and any further developments on this issue.

Deaths of Queenslanders with disability in care are reported on by the Coroner. The extension of this to include an expert panel is an issue that a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will consider once the Royal Commission's report and recommendations are finalised.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is implementing Recommendation 10 of the *Not Now, Not Ever Report*. Actions to date include:

- The release of renewed Practice Standards for the domestic and family violence sector including best practice responses and practices for working with people with disability impacted by domestic and family violence
- Updates made to the Queensland Health *Domestic and Family Violence Toolkit of Resources* to support health staff working with and responding to people with disability experiencing domestic and family violence
- Construction of two new domestic and family violence crisis shelters in areas of high need (Caboolture and Gold Coast) that can accommodate women with high mobility needs,

- Introduction of flexible assistance packages available for women with disability escaping domestic and family violence to support independence and enable a choice of housing that best meets their needs, and
- Supporting the Queensland Police Service Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator Network, to examine opportunities to strengthen the integrated service delivery model for people with disability with key partner agencies.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government supports the policy ideas of:

- transparent reporting of DFV incidents involving people with disability, including service delivery and outcomes
- training and awareness development in police training; and
- rehabilitation and prevention programs for people with disability at risk of incarceration.

Given the complexity of the issues of justice raised in your policy platform, a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will ensure a meeting of key Ministers with QDN about how best to progress them.

## **8. My transport matters**

### *Continue funding of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme beyond 2021*

The Queensland Government has moved to make sure National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants continue to have access to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) while adequate transport support under the NDIS is being finalised.

Extending scheme membership for NDIS participants means they will not be disadvantaged by their transition to NDIS. TSS members who have an NDIS plan will continue to receive the same level of subsidy, a co-contribution of up to \$25 per trip, that they currently receive. The subsidies had been expected to transition to the NDIS funding arrangement but ensuring adequate transport support for people with disabilities under the NDIS is still being finalised.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is continuing to work to ensure NDIS delivers proper affordable transport options for Queenslanders in the longer term.

As an interim measure, the Commonwealth Government is fully reimbursing the Queensland Government for continuing the TSS for NDIS participants.

We want to ensure that people with disability continue to receive this support, so they can undertake everyday activities and stay connected with family and friends, without having to compromise their health and wellbeing by missing important medical appointments.

The Palaszczuk Government has allocated funding to ensure the continuation of the lift incentive payment for drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis to give priority to TSS members who are required to travel in a wheelchair. The Government has also allocated over \$21 million to update Queensland's Wheelchair Accessible Taxi fleet over four years.

### *Greater investment in accessibility upgrades to existing transport infrastructure - Station Accessibility Upgrades*

As part of our commitment to deliver public transport services for all Queenslanders, the Queensland Government is investing \$357 million towards upgrading stations to improve accessibility across the South East Queensland network.

These upgrades will make it easier and safer for many customers to access our public transport system.

Under Queensland Rail's \$300 million Station Accessibility Upgrade Program, 14 station upgrade projects are at various stages — from planning and design, through to construction or completed. Accessibility upgrades at Alderley, Dinmore, Graceville, Nambour, Newmarket, Morayfield, Strathpine and Boondall stations have been completed.

Main construction on the Dakabin, Cannon Hill and Aucherflower station accessibility upgrades has commenced. And major construction also commenced at East Ipswich station in early-September 2020.

Queensland Rail is also progressing planning for accessibility upgrades at the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) proposals being considered for Albion and Buranda stations.

The Queensland Government has contributed an additional \$57 million towards improving accessibility at Fairfield, Yeronga, Yeerongpilly, Moorooka, Rocklea and Salisbury stations that are being delivered as part of the Cross River Rail project.

While the scope of works varies for each station, accessibility upgrades generally include new footbridges with lifts, platform raising at the assisted boarding points, and a range of other features including accessible toilets, hearing aid loops, tactile flooring surfaces, improved lighting, CCTV and wayfinding signage, and new bicycle enclosures.

Recently the Palaszczuk Labor Government announced that as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan, we will be investing an additional \$209 million for accessibility upgrades at Bundamba, Burpengary, Banyo, Lindum and Wooloowin train stations which will include full platform raising, setting a new standard for all future station upgrades to be delivered by Queensland Rail.

With this new funding, we are now investing close to \$500 million to make our stations across the South East more accessible.

### *New Generation Rollingstock*

The \$335.7 million NGR accessibility upgrade program will deliver the most accessible rail fleet Queensland has ever seen. The NGR accessibility upgrades will include:

- addition of a second accessible toilet module on every NGR train,
- 10 per cent increase in circulation space inside the toilet modules,
- improved sink design,
- more grab/ handrails, and
- priority seats increased from 24 to 88 per train.

The first upgraded train has now returned to South East Queensland to undergo on-track testing, with the entire fleet completely upgraded and back in service by 2024.

The design of the upgrades came after intensive consultation with a Project Working Group from the disability sector, using an innovative co-design process.

If re-elected the Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue to engage with the disability sector throughout the upgrade process.

### *Developing a regional and rural accessible transport strategy*

The Regional Transport Plans support the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) vision of 'creating a single integrated transport network accessible to everyone'. For the first time ever, Queensland has developed Regional Transport Plans that cover the entire State.

The first of these plans, the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Transport Plan, was finalised and published on TMR's website in June 2018.

Plans for North West, Central West, South West, Far North, Northern, Fitzroy, Wide Bay Burnett and Darling Downs were finalised in early 2020 and have also been published on TMR's website. The

remaining draft Regional Transport Plans for South East Queensland are currently progressing through the finalisation process and will be released in late 2020.

The development of the Regional Transport Plans is founded on a strong collaborative approach with our local government partners to identify agreed priorities for future development of the transport network at the regional level.

Each plan has a focus on accessibility improvements and achievements.

### *Inclusive Mapping Pilot*

Queenslanders with disability now have access to maps identifying the easiest and safest routes to move through some local precincts.

This inclusive mapping pilot is just one way the State Government is working to provide enhanced information to enable people to participate in work, social and cultural activities safely and with dignity.

The maps, currently available for South Brisbane, Townsville and Rockhampton precincts, were developed in partnership with Briometrix Australia, a leading provider of technology solutions for people with disability. Using Briometrix technology, people who use wheelchairs gathered information about footpath conditions and the level of effort required to negotiate the built environment.

The data collected was then used to generate maps to show accessible pathways and potentially match routes to a person's physical abilities.

This pilot was funded under the State Government's \$2.5 million commitment to support our vision of making walking an easy choice for everyone. This trial combines the experiences of people with disability with innovative technology to collect and share information about footpath conditions and access to public transport and key destinations

We will continue to assess how best to apply this technology to provide high quality accessibility-mapping resources for the community to inform further rollout.

### *Meaningful engagement with people with disability on major infrastructure projects to ensure accessibility and user-friendly design*

The establishment of the Queensland Accessible Transport Advisory Council (QATAC) will provide disability-sector representatives with an unprecedented opportunity for early and authentic consultation on all major transport projects.

The group will give a stronger voice to people with vision, hearing, physical or cognitive impairments as well as older people, parents and youth justice groups.

### *Disability Parking Reforms*

The Palaszczuk Labor Government proudly introduced laws allowing Queenslanders who have been diagnosed as legally blind to be eligible for a disability parking permit. I am aware that you were actively involved in making these important changes and thank you for your strong advocacy.

If re-elected, we will continue to work closely with you on other disability parking issues requiring consideration.

## 9. My NDIS matters

The Palaszczuk Labor Government implemented a new disability program introduced to make sure that Qld's investment in services is delivering public value. *Disability Connect Queensland* (DCQ) plays a key role in accountability across mainstream services by:

- monitoring and managing Queensland's investment in the NDIS
- working across Queensland Government departments to prepare and drive state disability plans
- continuing to embed All Abilities Queensland Plan
- championing the community services industry by focusing on NDIS market
- delivering worker screening
- investigating concerns of clients, carers, advocates and expert advisors to ensure the safety of clients.

An important premise of DCQ is that it is informed by people with disability. To embed this there is a 20% employment target for people with disability to be employed within DCQ.

On 18 August 2020, Minister O'Rourke wrote to Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Minister for Families and Social Services, and the Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Government Services and Minister for the NDIS, seeking clarification of the implications of the decision to transition the ILC grant program to DSS including any implications relating to quality and safeguarding arrangements.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue to lobby for Queensland's share of ILC funding.

## 10. My cost of living matters

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has provided funding of \$6.5 million annually over five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21 to deliver the Financial Resilience Program in 30 locations across Queensland. Between 2017 and 2020 over 40,000 people have received assistance through Better Budgeting Services.

COVID-19 has put an enormous amount of pressure on Queensland. Our strong health response means that we are now in a position to start delivering our plan for economic recovery. We know that there are a significant number of Queenslanders who are experiencing financial hardship.

On 12 October 2020, the Premier announced that a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government would provide an additional \$6.2 million over the next two years to make sure emergency support services are extended to vulnerable Queenslanders.

This will include:

- \$4 million for 20 NGO workers to provide financial counselling to vulnerable Queenslanders and assist them in obtaining no interest loans
- \$2.2 million for the provision of emergency relief (like food vouchers and parcels).

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue existing energy concessions for people with disability.

Now is not the time to risk the LNP's cuts. Queensland's ongoing economic and health recovery requires leadership and stability, and Deb Frecklington and the LNP are a risk to our recovery.

I urge you to communicate this message with your members and supporters. Should the Palaszczuk Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', with a period at the end.

**STEVEN MILES MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**