

.....
.....
.....

Dear

As one of your constituents, I am writing to share my concerns about the ending of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) for Queensland NDIS participants on 30 June 2019.

This subsidy is essential to me, as a person with a physical disability, as it makes transport much more affordable and ensures I can access my community.

The ending of the TSS will result in approximately 10,000 Queensland NDIS participants being substantially worse off, as they will no longer have access to affordable transport options.

The NDIS is still in the process of establishing new and adequate transport supports, with many people saying that the level of funding being provided by the scheme is just not enough – particularly if they can no longer access this subsidy to cover half their taxi fare.

I'm also concerned that the cuts will include the existing \$20 'Lift Fee' that the Queensland Government currently offers to Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) drivers who transport TSS members. This is an added incentive for drivers to improve services for people with a disability and has led to improvements in services and reduced complaints about WAT services in Queensland.

If Queensland NDIS participants can't afford to travel as much, and WAT operators don't receive this additional payment to provide services for such a large group of people, I worry about the impact this will have on the accessible transport industry. I believe governments of other states have continued their state-based subsidy for taxi use, regardless of the introduction of the NDIS to their states.

I have signed a petition launched by Spinal Life Australia, along with the Endeavour Foundation, Vision Australia and other disability organisations, that will be presented in Parliament to ask the Queensland Government to extend the TSS by two years from 30 June 2019.

This will give more time for the Commonwealth and state-based transport subsidy systems to work out the best way forward.

I ask you to show your support to Queenslanders with a disability, and to me, and make sure no one gets left behind.

Kind regards

.....
Signature

.....
Date

.....
Print name