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Dear

As one of your constituents, I am writing to share my concerns about the ending of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) for participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This scheme subsidises half of the taxi fare, up to a maximum subsidy of \$25, with approximately 10,600 NDIS participants to be impacted by this change.

While the scheme is state-based, recent changes to the NDIS have made this a Commonwealth Government issue.

Many Queensland NDIS participants have said the funding they are receiving in their plans is inconsistent and insufficient to meet their needs – especially if they cannot access this critical subsidy.

Spinal Life Australia has met with Queensland State Minister for Transport and Main Roads, The Hon Mark Bailey, and Queensland State Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, The Hon Coralee O’Rourke, to ask for a two-year extension to the TSS so these issues can be resolved.

These Ministers referred Spinal Life back to the Commonwealth Government for response, saying that since July 2017 the Queensland Government has been funding both the TSS and also contributing to the NDIS for transport.

Spinal Life has asked the Commonwealth Government to review the Queensland Government’s funding agreement with the NDIA relating to transport and urgently work together to resolve this issue.

Otherwise, the Commonwealth Government should immediately review transport funding for NDIS participants who use the TSS to ensure they are not disadvantaged when the scheme ends.

No matter who is responsible, I just want to see this situation resolved.

This subsidy is essential to me, as a person with a physical disability, as it means I can participate in my community and be independent.

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

Kind regards

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Signature

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Date

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Print name