



Minister for Education and
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Level 22 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7530
Email education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

30 NOV 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petitions 2642-16 and 2657-16 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 1 November 2016, regarding the school transport assistance program for students with disability in Queensland.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed that school transport for students with disability will become the responsibility of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Our government has listened to the concerns of parents and transport operators who are uncertain about what it will mean for our most vulnerable students and their families.

These children who travel to school every day need the reassurance of certainty and routine.

That's why the Palaszczuk Government will continue to operate transport assistance for students with disability under the current model until 31 December 2019.

We negotiated this arrangement for Queensland with the federal government to help ensure there is no disruption to school transport for children with disability during the NDIS transition.

As part of this agreement, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will continue to provide transport services under existing legislative and contractual frameworks until 31 December 2019, six months after the transition to NDIS is completed in Queensland.

However, I understand uncertainty remains for families and for transport operators beyond 2019.

That's why I have called on the Federal Minister for Disability to ensure no child is disadvantaged during the transition to the NDIS. I have asked the Federal Government to allow Queensland to continue to provide school transport assistance for students with disability under the current model beyond 2019.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to advocate to the Federal Government on behalf of families, school communities and transport operators. We want to ensure that Queensland children with disability have reliable, appropriate and safe transport to and from school, and that their school education is not compromised as a result of the NDIS changes.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me.

In accordance with Standing Order 32, it would be appreciated if you could table this response on the next sitting day.

Yours sincerely



KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Ref: 16/505814