



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 32829

Your ref: A445257

02 JUN 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3130-19, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 14 May 2019 about extension of Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) for Queensland National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants.

I am pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk Government has stepped in and allocated \$6 million to ensure that access to the TSS continues over the coming year for NDIS participants.

Taxi subsidies started to transition to the federal NDIS in July 2016, but different criteria meant some of those using the state-run TSS would be ineligible for travel support under the incoming federal scheme.

The Palaszczuk Government intervened to bring all NDIS eligible members back under the TSS scheme in mid-2017, extending it until 30 June 2019. We would not let the Morrison Government leave people in the lurch, and have extended application of the TSS for another year to provide certainty for Queenslanders.

Importantly, this means TSS members who have an NDIS plan will continue to receive the same level of subsidy they currently receive throughout the 2019–20 financial year.

In addition to the co-contribution of up to \$25 per trip provided under the TSS, the Palaszczuk Government is also allocating funding to ensure the continuation of the \$20 lift incentive payment for drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis to give priority to TSS members who are required to travel in wheelchairs. 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 will continue to work with the federal government over the coming year to ensure the NDIS delivers proper, affordable transport options for Queenslanders in the longer term.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Bailey".

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads