



## QTU Position Statement

# National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The QTU supports in principle the implementation of the NDIS and the opportunity it provides people with a disability to access coordinated, resourced support throughout their life. The QTU welcomes the commitment of significant additional funding from both the federal and state governments to implement the NDIS.

The QTU acknowledges that it has been involved in the consultation process about the introduction of the NDIS both at a central level and at regional level of the Department of Education and Training (DET) in respect of the North Queensland early launch site and the implementation of the NDIS more generally.

### NDIS stops at the school gate

The QTU supports the Department's and State Government's position that the NDIS stops at the school gate. It must be acknowledged (see below) that this will be difficult to implement and manage in schools in its purest form.

### Involvement of external professional staff in schools and in the education of students with disabilities

The programs envisaged by the NDIS will generate pressure for the increasing involvement of external professional staff in schools in the education of students with disability. The QTU acknowledges that such involvement has occurred in the past but that it will become more prevalent in the future. The QTU asserts that the primary issue for all schools is the provision of education and as such this must be the paramount consideration for decisions regarding the involvement of external professional staff in schools.

The QTU position regarding this involvement is as follows:

- The principal will decide on the scope of the involvement of external professional staff (not employed by DET) in processes such as ICP development and implementation, contact with DET staff and access to the school site.
- The principal in consultation with other DET staff and parents/caregivers will determine if external professional staff (not DET employees) will be allowed on the school site to provide educational services and/or support to students with disabilities.
- The principal in consultation with other DET staff and parents/caregivers will determine if students will be systematically released to attend other non-DET facilities to access education services and support during normal school operating hours.

### Early childhood development programs (ECDP)

The QTU acknowledges that the NDIS has signalled that it will be providing support for children who have a disability who are younger than the age of compulsory schooling.

Notwithstanding the NDIS position, the QTU calls on DET and the State Government to continue to fund ECDPs even when NDIS is implemented. The QTU values the vital role that teachers in the EDCPs play in the education of these young children. The proven track record of similar programs over many years has shown that private providers do not necessarily have an educational focus. Therefore, a demand will continue to exist for both access to ECDPs as well as any additional NDIS funding that may be allocated.

The QTU will not support any proposal for the department to remove ECDPs as the NDIS does not cover the core educational programs delivered by ECDPs.

## **School Transport Assistance Program for students with disabilities**

The QTU supports the current model of provision of transport under the School Transport Assistance Program for students with disabilities and that this should continue indefinitely. The QTU recognises that this level of support and supervision is required for students with special educational needs.