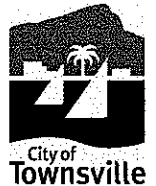


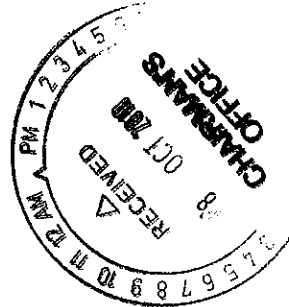


**COUNCILLOR
DEANNE BELL**



05 October 2010

Mr Gary Banks AO
Chairman
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA ACT 2600



TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
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Dear Sir,

The cost of care and support and related services provided to people with disabilities is growing and will continue to grow as the number of people with disabilities increases in the Australian community.

Currently the cost of care and support and related services for people with disabilities is funded through a combination of accident compensation schemes and a social welfare system which is funded through a range of Commonwealth and State/Territory government based programs. In many circumstances when funding from these sources is either not available or inadequate to meet the support needs of a person with disabilities, the cost of unfunded support is borne by families, friends and carers.

This current funding system is viewed as being crisis driven and not meeting the present supports of people with disabilities. The inadequacy of the current system will become further highlighted as the number of people with disabilities increases and the number of informal carer's decreases resulting in an escalation of demand for additional care and support and related services.

The proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme currently under consideration by the Commonwealth Government was recently discussed by the Townsville City Council's Disability Advisory Committee. This committee supports the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme as a social insurance system is viewed as a system which will provide a viable funding arrangement to provide the care and support and related services required by people with disabilities throughout their life on a no fault basis and recognises that a person with a disability has a right to the care and support and related services that they require regardless of where they reside.

The Townsville City Council wishes to support to the following:

- the principles behind the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme
- the investigation of the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme by the Productivity Commission.

**COUNCILLOR
DEANNE BELL**



The Townsville City Council looks forward to the government implementing a National Disability Insurance Scheme which will ensure that people with disabilities can receive the care and support and related services that they require to live in the community.

Yours sincerely

Deanne Bell
Councillor Townsville City Council