



31 January 2011

Gary Banks
Chair of the Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra
ACT 2600

Re: Draft National Disability Insurance Scheme

Dear Mr Banks

Mackay Regional Council is writing to advise of its in principle support for the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The draft National Disability Insurance Scheme was brought to the attention of Council through our Equitable Access Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of disability service provider representatives, people with various disabilities and interested others including an occupational therapist and an access consultant. The committee is in place as one structure to support Council in its commitment to equitable access through both policy and action plan frameworks.

There is a growing awareness in the Council of the future implications for all levels of government that will stem from the increasing ageing population and expected significant increase in the number of people with a disability. It is also acknowledged, at the regional council level, that reviews and long term future planning are/will be essential to maximize the limited resources available for Council to meet its obligations with regard to (a) delivering physical infrastructure to meet future needs and (b) facilitating the community's capacity for social inclusion.

At the Federal level, the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme is certainly a fundamental reform. However, given the future Australian population dynamics, it would appear it could be a necessary reform that may well have the potential to deliver support for people with a disability more proactively and equitably.

No doubt, an extensive consultation and revision process is yet to be undertaken. However, in this initial phase, Council would like to put forward its in principle support for the concepts on which the draft proposal is based.

Yours sincerely

Peter Franks
Chief Executive Officer

*Cc: Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities*