

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

“Interstate and overseas speakers are in Brisbane tomorrow at QUT’s Gardens Theatre to highlight the importance of the inclusion of people with decision-making disabilities in the Federal government’s new Disability Care scheme. Most of the Disability Care (formerly NDIS) Trial sites will be launched next week, and the inclusion of people with decision-making disabilities is vital to the success of the NDIS” said Mr Ken Wade, Director at Queensland Advocacy Incorporated.

“The UK experience shows that a lot of ground work must be done to ensure that all people with disabilities have the opportunity to self-direct their own support”.

“Here the Federal Attorney General Mark Dreyfus has recently recognised that our legal system does not yet fully realise this country’s obligations under the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, to which Australia is a party and which sets out:

- rights for people with disability to recognition before the law, to legal capacity and to access to justice on an equal basis with others, and
- a general principle of respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including freedom to make one’s own choices.

“Queensland Advocacy Incorporated and QUT’s Health Law Research Centre have convened this forum for people with disabilities. It will highlight that Disability Care will only be as good as far as it includes all people with disabilities, no matter what their decision-making capacity” said Mr Wade.

Speakers will include academics, public officials, international human rights and disabilities activist Professor Amita Dhanda, and most importantly, people with disability who have wrestled with the inequities of our current decision-making regimes.

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Patron: Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AO Governor of Queensland