Letterhead - Tim Mulherin MP

Labor for Queensland

Dear Mr Bleechmore

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 January 2015 concerning Vision Australia Queensland's election priorities.

**Funding**

Labor has a long history of supporting not-for-profits and non-government organisations and, if elected, will continue to do so. The LNP Government has cut funding to numerous community organisations forcing them to reduce services and cut staff. Not-for-profit and non-government organisations cannot survive another three years of the LNP.

**NDIS**

As you indicated, Queensland is the only state that refused to sign up for a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trial site. This decision by the Newman Government has resulted in Queenslanders missing out on funding, services, experience and consumer certainty. Without a trial site, Queensland will be disadvantaged when the initial roll out starts in 2016.

Labor is committed to announcing the regions in which the initial roll out of the NDIS will occur to provide certainty for people with a disability, families, caregivers and service providers. A Labor Government will initiate the stakeholder consultation in which the LNP refused to participate.

Labor is also committed to addressing the needs of all Queenslanders and for this reason, Labor in government will appoint a Minister for Seniors. This Minister will oversee the introduction of a 'one-stop-shop' for seniors providing advice, advocacy and access to services for Queenslanders over 65.

**Transport**

Labor is committed to making public transport more accessible and easy to use for people with a disability. Access to transport is a vital part of ensuring people with a disability can live independently in their communities.

In government, Labor will continue to develop and roll out ticketing options such as the Vision Impairment Travel Pass. As part of that process we will work co¬operatively with peak bodies such as Vision Australia.

Labor will maintain funding for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS). Unlike the Newman Government, which attempted to cut funding for the TSS, Labor understands that the TSS is vitally important for the people that rely on it. Labor will look to improve and enhance the TSS where funding becomes available.

Labor supports the roll-out of real-time passenger information on the public transport network. As part of that roll-out, Labor will work closely with groups such as Vision Australia to maximise the ways people with vision impairment are able to make use of this new technology.

**Employment**

In government, Labor will work with Vision Australia to explore opportunities to increase workforce participation of people who are blind or have low vision in the public sector. Labor will advocate for equal opportunities in employment for all Queenslanders.

**Supporting School Leavers**

Labor will invest $34 million over four years in TAFE Queensland. Part of this funding will be allocated to subsidise the delivery of courses for disadvantaged learners and expanding the VET in Schools program.

**Accessible Voting**

The Electoral Commission Queensland currently has an 'electronically assisted voting process' in place and Labor will be guided by advice from the ECQ regarding the expansion of this program into online voting.

Yours sincerely

Tim Mulherin

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition**