

Madam Speaker Purick took the Chair at 10 am.

VISITORS
Nightcliff Primary School

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise of the presence in the gallery of Year 4 students from Nightcliff Primary School—some school in the northern suburbs—accompanied by their teachers. I understand there is an Oliver in the gallery. Where is Oliver? I love that name. If I had a little boy, I would have called him Oliver. Also I understand grandpa is there—Mr Andrew Fyles. Welcome to Parliament House.

Now, Oliver, I have a word of advice, keep an eye on her, she is tricky. Welcome to Parliament House. I hope you enjoy your time here.

Members: Hear, hear!

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (AUTHORISATIONS) BILL
(Serial 83)

Ms FYLES (Disabilities): Madam Speaker, I present a bill entitled National Disability Insurance Scheme (Authorisations) Bill 2019 and table the explanatory statement and human rights capability statement.

I move that the bill be now read a first time.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a formal authorisation process for restrictive practices and a framework for National Disability Insurance Scheme registered providers, NDIS participants and behaviour support practitioners and create the new role of the senior practitioner in the Northern Territory.

I acknowledge the staff from the Department of Health Office of Disability present in the Chamber today who have worked on this bill—a significant body of work—in transitioning the Northern Territory to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which is a significant step for Territorians living with a disability. From 1 July this year the Northern Territory will transition to that scheme. It has been a huge body of work, legislative change, policy work and working with providers and participants. It is important that this Chamber acknowledges their hard work.

For the children in the gallery—the wonderful Nightcliff Primary School—it is great to have you here this morning. This bill is particularly important to those Territorians and other Australians living with a disability. It will provide clear guidance about the restrictive practices that service providers can use. I am doing the first reading speech this morning, then the bill will sit and one of the committees will look at it and it will come back into parliament later this year for debate. That was an explanation for the schoolchildren, Madam Speaker, before I get into my speech.

The staged transition to NDIS commenced in the Northern Territory on 1 July 2016 with the continued rollout in the Barkly—and the Member for Barkly has spoken about the rollout in his region in detail in the House before—followed by the East Arnhem region and Darwin urban supported accommodation services from 1 January 2017. From 1 July 2017 Top End Remote, Katherine and supported accommodation services in Alice Springs commenced phasing into NDIS. From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 the rest of the Darwin region and Central Australia will phase into NDIS. This will be a major year of transition with the majority of participants living in these regions.

The Northern Territory will commence the full scheme from 1 July, and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the NDIS Commission) will take effect from this date. The NDIS commission is a new independent agency established to improve the quality and safety of NDIS supports and service. It will regulate the NDIS market, provide national consistency, promote safety and quality service and identify areas for improvement.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (Restrictive Practices and Behaviours Support) Rules 2018 (the NDIS rules) provides that restrictive practices must adhere to state and territory authorisation processes and prohibition requirements. The NT does not currently have an authorisation process for NDIS providers for the use of restrictive practices. The Northern Territory Government is required to operationalise NDIS restrictive practices authorisation arrangements from 1 July this year when the NDIS is at full scheme in the Northern Territory.