



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Sunday 18 March 2012

For immediate release

LNP DELIVERS DISABILITIES PACKAGE

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the announcement by the LNP of a package of support measures for Queenslanders with a disability worth \$38.7 million, aimed at providing flexible care relevant to the circumstances of individuals and their families.

Mr Cripps said the LNP would invest \$22 million over four years for extra respite hours for young people with high needs disabilities aged between 16 and 25 and their carers, through more flexible arrangements that would provide real relief to many families in need.

“These are the people that the 20 year, tired Labor Government has allowed fall through the cracks. The LNP will also focus on providing assistance to parents of newborns with a disability through \$4 million over four years to establish *Parent Connect*” said Mr Cripps.

“This front line service, which is on top of the LNP’s commitment to the \$92 million Mums and Bubs *Maternal and Child Health Service*, is designed to link parents of these newborns to the support services they require at this critical time” he said.

“The LNP will also deliver more speech and language pathologists for students who have learning difficulties at the cost of \$9.5 million over three years. These services will be delivered in state schools and will be additional to those already employed” said Mr Cripps.

“These services will target Queensland kids who face learning challenges, for example, an autistic disorder, hearing impairment, intellectual disability or cerebral palsy. These are vital services to give young people with disabilities the best possible start” he said.

Mr Cripps said an LNP Government would also invest \$3.2 million to re-establish the *Independent Public Advocate* as a statutory authority to ensure that we have a strong advocacy system for those with disabilities and their families.

“The LNP also intends to support the intent of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme* plans to work with other jurisdictions and stakeholders to ensure this scheme is funded and has a particular focus on regional and rural Queenslanders with a disability” said Mr Cripps.

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address:	PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph:	07 4776 1428
		E-mail:	Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au	Fax:	07 4776 3503
