



19<sup>th</sup> July, 2018

TDSA supports option 1 as the only viable option in Queensland for a number of reasons:

1. The assumption there is a 'market' of suppliers of transport if not provided in the co-ordinated manner as currently occurs via Education Qld is unfounded, especially in regional, rural and remote Qld which is significant proportion of Qld.
2. Likewise, Ed Qld co-ordination keeps the price within bounds, without this boundary-riding function performed by the Dept, the price of transport will escalate, especially for regional, rural and remote school students. The true costs of extensive dead running to transport students with disabilities in these locations would be considerable for the NDIS.
3. In reality how will individual schools, let alone parents 'cope' with what will be 2 streams of transport - one for the non-disabled and one that applies to students with disabilities. The current system in Qld, where Ed Qld lets and coordinates statewide the contract works very well.
4. Quality of service delivery and ensuring only providers with appropriate blue and yellow cards will be compromised. Who will ensure that transport suppliers have/hold and deliver appropriate quality? There has been numerous instances prior to the new system of school bus drivers physically and sexually abusing disabled students. Will change of the current approach in Qld result in a return to a higher potential for this to occur once again?
5. A 'systemic' approach based on individuals negotiating the supply of their needed service creates excessive stress for both the families, individual schools/teachers and providers would create a logistics nightmare. It is simply much more time-efficient to have Ed Qld continue in its current role, especially in regional, rural and remote Qld as they are already doing it for the non-disabled students.
6. In regional, rural and remote areas of Qld if not for the ability of Ed Qld to 'leverage' combined transport for people with disabilities and those without disabilities, then there is a very real chance that some providers would not wish to transport students with disabilities without a price premium being attached.

In summary, the system isn't broke so not meddle with it.

Yours faithfully

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