Karen Knight,

General Manager, Advocacy & Engagement

Vision Australia

373 Old Cleveland Road

Coorparoo QLD 4151

Dear Ms Knight

**LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY RESPONSE TO ELECTION SURVEY**

Thank you for your letter dated 3 November 2017, on behalf of your members.

Unfortunately, Queenslanders aren’t getting ahead and the community is crying out for leadership because Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor are doing nothing.

Labor is stuck in neutral and Queenslanders are paying the price, through higher car registration, soaring electricity bills and a lack of congestion busting infrastructure.

When our finances aren’t managed properly, governments do not have the funds to provide the services that a growing state needs – in our hospitals, a better education for our children, more resources for our police to protect the community from drugs and crime and investing in infrastructure that creates jobs and improves our standard of living.

A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National government will **Build a Better Queensland**. The LNP’s plan will create jobs, support small business, invest in education to raise standards and provide better services for families and retirees.

An LNP Government has five key priorities to create positive change for Queensland. If elected, we will –

1. Create jobs across Queensland and better manage our finances

2. Take action on the cost of living

3. Better support Queensland families

4. Provide safe and liveable communities

5. Build the roads, bridges and dams we need

**LNP record**

The LNP proudly negotiated Queensland’s entry into the NDIS.

We will continue to work with the Federal Government to ensure the smooth transition of Queenslanders to the National scheme.

Under the LNP funding for Disability Services increased 3.2 per cent from 2013–14 budget of $1.420 billion to $1.465 billion in 2014–15.

In 2014/15 we invested $50 million as part of the additional $868 million over the period to 2018–19 to support implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland.

In 2014 we invested $4.1 million for a trial program aimed at developing innovative and sustainable living options for adults with disability when they can no longer be cared for by their elderly parents.

In our final year in office we committed a further $5.5 million to provide assistance to up to 300 young people leaving school as part of the $55 million commitment over four years.

In 2014, the LNP invested a further $4.2 million to provide support to up to 27 people with spinal cord injuries to leave the Princess Alexandra Hospital and live in the community as part of the $26.4 million commitment over four years.

We provided $5.5 million to fund respite for people with high needs disabilities aged 16 to 25 years and their families and carers, through more flexible arrangements.

We delivered the Parent Connect service to assist parents of newborns and children with a newly diagnosed disability to link with the services they need.

**Labor Failures**

Under Labor there has been no new investment in disability services and limited new clients are being supported.

Labor’s Mark Ryan and Kate Jones ran a deliberately false and harmful campaign in the North suburbs of Brisbane that caused unnecessary harm to families.

More people will continue to miss out until the full roll out of the NDIS in 2019 thanks to Labor’s failure to plan.

**In response to specific points raised by Vision Australia**

1. *More employment opportunities for people who are blind or have low vision in government departments.*

The LNP supports providing more opportunities for people who are blind or have low vision gain employment in the public service and will work with Vision Australia to achieve this aim.

1. *For all students who are blind or have low vision to have equal and timely access to the assistive technology they need in order to participate fully in school life*.

The LNP will work with schools to ensure students who are blind or have low vision to have equal and timely access to the assistive technology they need in order to participate fully in school life. We will work with Vision Australia to achieve this objective.

1. *The Taxi Subsidy Scheme to increase to $60 per trip.*

The LNP will work with the sector to ensure the *Taxi Subsidy Scheme* and the NDIS is delivering for Queenslanders who are blind and vision impaired.

1. *Provide work experience for graduates who are blind or have low vision through a Queensland public service graduate program.*

This is a worthy initiative the LNP would consider implementing if given the privilege of winning Government on the 25th of November.

1. *The introduction of audio announcements on buses and at bus stations.*

The LNP will work with Vision Australia and bus operators on how this initiative could be delivered and how we can improve public accessibility.

1. The introduction of iVote, a remote electronic voting system which enables people who are blind or have low vision to vote in secret and independently.

It was the LNP the introduced e-assist voting at the 2015 State Election. We will continue to work with Vision Australia and other parts of sector to further enhance voter accessibility for people with a disability or vision impairment into future.

We have been travelling the state and listening to the concerns of Queenslanders. They want better government – not more government. It’s our commitment to be a common sense government that listens, plans and acts to **Build a Better Queensland**.

Please feel free to share this response directly with your members, or in any regular publication.

Yours sincerely

**Michael O’Dwyer**

**LNP State Director**