

## Our position on Queensland hospitals and community health care

*Queensland hospitals' patient care policies and procedures must be reformed to explicitly include people with a disability and their families.*

### The problem

The problem with patient care policies and procedures in Queensland hospitals is that currently, they result in:

1. people with disabilities being neglected to the point that they are made vulnerable by the health system;
2. a reluctance from people with disability to enter the health system (which also makes them vulnerable);
3. disability support workers being required, in many places, to support their clients throughout every stage of contact with the hospital (which is a poor use of resources); and
4. people with disability experiencing poor health outcomes due to a lack of timely access to support (for things like communication and assistance to navigate the health system).

### The solutions

Queensland hospitals' patient care policies and procedures must be reformed to explicitly include people with a disability and their families. Additionally, the Disability Alliance would like the Queensland Government to employ a network of Disability Liaison Staff to:

- act as intermediaries;
- advise on patient safety;
- ensure access to communication, equipment and patient facilities; and
- ensure timely, appropriate discharge plans.

The Disability Alliance would also like to see action taken to address the health issues highlighted in the Office of the Public Advocate's Issue Paper *In Sickness and in Health: Addressing the health care needs of adults with a decision-making disability*.

### The benefits to Queensland

Funding Disability Liaison Staff in Queensland hospitals whose work was guided by patient care policies and procedures that included people with a disability and their families would:

1. create jobs;
2. freeing up hospital beds;
3. reduce the frequency of health complications for Queenslanders with disability; and
4. reduce subsequent readmissions into hospital.

### Make a difference this election

*Call on your local Member to publicly support reforms to patient care policies and procedures to include people with a disability and their families.*