



"MEDIA RELEASE"

10.05.2010

"Tony meets Kelly!"

When Tony Abbott stepped into the bar at Adelaide's SEBEL Hotel on Thursday evening to shake hands with Kelly Vincent MLC and say a few words of praise, the huge crowd of d4d supporters went very quiet! For the charismatic Mr Abbott to go out of his way to briefly join what had been a huge week of celebrations as Kelly Vincent MLC became the youngest ever female Parliamentarian in Australia and the first person to ever be elected to Parliament on a single issue disability ticket, the realization set it that at the highest levels, disability was very much a national political focus.

Mr Abbott in Adelaide for a round of official functions on Friday visited Trinity Gardens Primary School including spending time with the Special Education Unit students! The following is a transcript of his comments at the school.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE HON. TONY ABBOTT MHR

JOINT DOORSTOP INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. CHRISTOPHER PYNE MHR,

SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINING

**AND SENATOR MITCH FIFIELD, SHADOW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR
DISABILITIES, CARERS AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

ADELAIDE Friday May 7th 2010

TONY ABBOTT: I'm pleased to be here at the Trinity Gardens School with Christopher Pyne, the local Member and also with Senator Mitch Fifield who is the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Services. It's great to see a school here which is doing so much good work with kids with disabilities. The Coalition appreciates that people with disabilities get a raw deal. The Government has commissioned a Productivity Commission inquiry into how we can deliver better and more effective services to people with disabilities. The Opposition strongly supports this inquiry and should we come into government at the end of the year we would very much look forward to getting the recommendations of the Productivity Commission and I give people this assurance, that we would treat any Productivity Commission recommendations in this area much more seriously than the Government has treated the recommendations of the Henry Review. We think this is a very important issue. There are millions of Australians who are involved with this, not because they necessarily have a disability themselves but because their loved ones do and they are rightly, rightly, very interested in the outcome of this Productivity Commission inquiry and we won't let them down.

<http://www.liberal.org.au/Latest-News/2010/05/07/Abbott-Doorstop-with-Christopher-Pyne-and-Mitch-Fifield.aspx>

Subsequent to his school visit, Mr Abbott spoke strongly and forcefully (and probably surprisingly to some stalwarts) at a Liberal luncheon on the clear need and commitment he had made to support the Productivity Commission Disability inquiry and his intention to treat the report very seriously. The genuine applause from the 400 assembled guests suggests the need for attention to Australia's disability crisis is becoming increasingly more widely known and support crosses political party boundaries.

At the luncheon which was attended by Kelly Vincent MLC (d4d) and her support team, and the Disability Speaks NDIS steering committee (yes we paid our own way!) Christopher Pyne Shadow Minister for Education, and the host quipped that Kelly's applause levels on introduction surpassed Mr Abbott.

Many in the national disability community will be heartened that regardless of which party wins power at the next Federal election the Productivity Commission will be supported to deliver the desperately needed disability report, including service models and funding options that Australia has needed for decades. Mr Abbott should be commended for publicly committing his support!

In the lead up to the next Federal election there will no doubt be close scrutiny by Australia's disability community to ascertain if the interim and much needed crisis measures that are announced by both parties as pre election promises will alleviate some of the stress in the national disability system while awaiting the finalization and processing of the productivity commission report

Disability Speaks will keep you posted

David Holst
Chair
Disability Speaks Steering Committee
0418555683

www.disabilityspeaks.com.au

"Disability Speaks will distribute on behalf of any organization that meets suitable criteria online information that is of wide disability community interest via our database that now numbers nearly 4,000 recipients for Govt, advocacy groups and other major disability organizations. We hope in the lead up to elections, state or federal we can distribute policy and support information from political groups. Such distribution is not in any way endorsement by Disability Speaks. From time to time Disability Speaks will also distribute media releases commenting on developments in the disability sector. We strongly encourage you to forward all releases to your friends, clients and disability supporters and encourage them to subscribe direct. To do so simply send an email subject "subscribe" to the address below.

Email: disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net

If you would like to be removed from the database please advise by return email. Disability Speaks has no affiliation with any political party or service provider, is self funded and run by volunteers.