



SENATOR MITCH FIFIELD

SHADOW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DISABILITIES, CARERS AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

TRANSCRIPT

**Sky News – AM Agenda
with Kieran Gilbert**

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8.40am

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Subjects: Disability Insurance

GILBERT:

Ok just finally there's been, the Government's got the Productivity Commission to look at a national insurance scheme for disability. You are the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary in this area. Do you think this is a good move, do you welcome it?

FIFIELD:

I certainly welcome it. There is a tremendous inequity at the heart of support for Australians with disability. If you're in an automobile accident you are catered for by a traffic accident scheme. If you're in a workplace injury you are covered by a workplace insurance scheme. But if you fall off the roof at home, or if you are born with a disability, you don't get the same degree of support that you do if you acquire your disability in one of those other two ways. So we do need to find a way to ensure that support is given for people with disabilities on the basis of need, rather than a system of rationing, which is pretty much the approach today. So I think the Productivity Commission is the appropriate way to look at the proposal for a National Disability Insurance Scheme. Little disappointed that it won't report until July 2011. But I don't want to be too critical. I think it's an idea that is worthy of consideration.

GILBERT:

Senator Fifield thanks for your time and all the best for a big day ahead.

FIFIELD:

Thanks Kieran.

ENDS

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