

~~This Bill makes it an offence to film, to possess or to distribute the images.~~

~~The Bill's redraft does not affect other existing laws in relation to child exploitation material.~~

~~Penalties are higher for adults than juveniles but in particular the penalty of confiscation of devices is critical to the Bill.~~

~~To simply have a legal process that takes months and drags offenders before the court would be ineffective in protecting the community. As with hooning in cars there is a need for some action that can be taken in a timely fashion to stop the distribution of these images once they have been posted and distributed there really isn't any going back.~~

~~So the provision allows a police officer or if within a school ground, a headmaster/teacher or teacher aide to confiscate any devices used to film, store or transmit images.~~

~~A receipt for confiscated devices is required.~~

~~This measure allows an immediacy of response; an appropriate penalty for behaving this way in relation to the bullying of children and also for the first time gives some prospect of actually stopping this behaviour before it has gone too far and potentially caused serious harm to children.~~

~~I know in this place that Bills are frequently looked at along party lines and Opposition Bills rarely, if ever, garner the support of the government.~~

~~I think this is an important measure. I think the community is very concerned about it. We have attempted to take on board the concerns that have been addressed by the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee and I do appeal to the government who must, like us, realise there is a serious problem and, like us, should be concerned about that problem, to consider the rare action of allowing this Bill to pass.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Mr Dick, adjourned.~~

## **~~PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS~~**

### **~~Sport and Recreation Programs~~**

~~**Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (11.41 am): Along with sporting and recreation groups from throughout the Morayfield electorate, I am very excited about the new package of sport and recreation funding programs. These new funding programs will support sporting and recreation groups whilst also providing jobs, building sport and recreation infrastructure, and promoting a healthier lifestyle for Queenslanders. The new funding program supports the Bligh Labor government's commitment to the Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland's goals of enhancing and increasing volunteerism and making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people. By supporting local sporting and recreation groups in the Morayfield electorate and more broadly those groups right throughout Queensland, the Bligh Labor government is providing real opportunity for people to participate more fully in their communities.~~

~~The new programs funded over three years include a \$38 million Local Sport and Recreation Jobs plan, which assists with the employment costs of a local sport and recreation coordinator who will help organisations with matters such as fundraising, promotional activities and sponsorships at the grassroots level; a \$51.5 million Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Program; a \$27.6 million State Sport and Recreation Organisation Development Program, which will help encourage participation in sport and recreation across Queensland; and an \$18 million Active Inclusion Program to encourage disadvantaged groups to participate in sport and recreation.~~

~~Along with the member for Pumicestone and the Caboolture Sports Club, I will be hosting a sports forum for local sporting and recreation groups from the Morayfield and Pumicestone electorates on Tuesday, 16 March. I encourage all interested people to attend. I also encourage them to enjoy the member for Pumicestone's pikelets and cakes that she will be providing. Already, I am receiving some exceptionally positive feedback from members of local sporting and recreation groups about these new programs.~~

~~(Time expired)~~

## **SENIORS RECOGNITION (GRANDPARENTS PROVIDING CARE) BILL**

### **First Reading**

**Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.42 am): I present a bill for an act to provide for the recognition of grandparents providing full-time care to their grandchildren and to ensure their interests are considered when making decisions that impact on their ability to care for their grandchildren. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

*Tabled paper:* Seniors Recognition (Grandparents Providing Care) Bill.

*Tabled paper:* Seniors Recognition (Grandparents Providing Care) Bill, explanatory notes.

## Second Reading

**Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.42 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

As more and more of our community joins the ranks of seniors, there are an increasing number of issues that need to be the focus of government policy and attention. Despite representing more than 40 per cent of the constituency, seniors in Queensland are still struggling for political recognition and action. While we still wait for an office for seniors to be established, and we hope for recognition of the breadth of issues facing the seniors sector, this private member's bill—the Seniors Recognition (Grandparents Providing Care) Bill 2010—is targeting one group of seniors who are doing it particularly tough.

The situation in which grandparents are primary carers for their grandchildren is increasing and, according to research by Mission Australia, now accounts for more than one per cent of families across Australia, and more than 30,000 children. These are people who are giving their time, effort, money and care to raise their grandchildren because of an inability of the children's parents. It is not easy for grandparents, who are settling into retirement or semiretirement, to have to start looking after young children again—to have to go through the process of schooling and running around after children, providing food and clothes, schoolbooks and shoes for growing young boys and girls, to have to completely refocus and readjust their lives in order to provide the best possible life for their grandchildren.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

There are many different reasons for grandparents assuming care for their grandchildren, whether it is the impaired capacity of a parent, an unreasonable risk posed by a parent, or parents who are not willing or able to provide full-time care for their children. Something that is not so varied is that each and every one of these grandparents makes sacrifices to improve the lives of their grandchildren, and quite a number do so at considerable hardship to themselves.

Many grandparents are not in the financial position to be able to take on the care of their grandchildren without watching their superannuation or savings disappear. A number are caught in between generational care—caring for their elderly parents as well as their grandchildren. Some are widows or widowers.

The objectives of this Bill are simple, but essential, to provide recognition for the work and dedication of these special people, and to ensure their interests are considered when making decisions that impact on their ability to care for their grandchildren.

Under this Bill, a Grandparent Carer Charter will be implemented. This Charter sets out the contributions of grandparents providing care, the importance of consideration of grandparents in decision making, and the unique place they hold in our community.

This Charter will form the basis of a legislative framework that provides a mechanism to allow this recognition to be used as part of a decision-making process, ensuring that when decisions are made by authorities on issues that directly affect grandparents providing care for their grandchildren, there is a framework to assist this decision making.

In this framework, a decision maker in making a 'relevant decision' must ensure the decision is consistent with the principles of the Charter. An employee of a decision maker in a multistaged decision-making process must also ensure consistency with the Charter.

The Bill also requires the office of a decision maker to ensure the office has a program to allow for the training and awareness of the Charter to its employees.

The process is simple, with a decision maker required to issue a notice to seniors carers bodies outlining details of the decision and inviting submissions within at least 20 business days from the issuance of the notice. These submissions must then be considered by the decision maker.

The Bill also states an obligation of the Carers Advisory Council to work to advance the interests of grandparents providing care, promote compliance with the Charter, and make recommendations to the minister on enhancing compliance.

As family members who step in to become the immediate family of children, and who provide for, care for and love their grandchildren, and raise them through formative years, grandparents providing care deserve the recognition of the parliament and the community for the work they do.

Recognition also requires a promise to consider the effects of decisions on grandparents providing care and their grandchildren. I have spoken to many representatives and grandparents, and I am always impressed by their dedication and love, their determination and passion. They deserve the recognition of this House, the thanks and appreciation of our community, and the respect of being accorded consideration in decisions that affect them.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Struthers, adjourned.

## ~~PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS~~

### ~~Cafe One~~

~~Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.43 am): On Friday, 26 February, it was a pleasure to join Minister Karen Struthers at Mission Australia's Cafe One, located in Wickham Street in the Valley. I love going to Cafe One, but on that particular morning it was a special event as the launch of the publication *The changing taste of welfare services: the evolution of Cafe One—a gateway to change*~~