

~~Regional Council of Elders and opened by the Undumbi elder Uncle Peter Bird. Traditional music, dance, cultural displays and a number of stalls provided a festive atmosphere, but the big priority of the day was to focus on Indigenous health issues.~~

~~The feature of the festival was the health pit stop, where everyone was encouraged to get a free health check, including tests for diabetes and high blood pressure. This was responsible and proactive action by the elders. Together with the establishment of an Indigenous health service in Redcliffe last year, the recent negotiations with Dr O'Sullivan's team at the Redcliffe Hospital have opened the way for Indigenous people to feel comfortable to go to the hospital after a smoking ceremony held a few weeks to cleanse the hospital and its grounds. These initiatives enable local Redcliffe Indigenous people to take their health future into their own hands and they are contributing to the state government's Toward Q2 goals to make Queenslanders the healthiest people in the country.~~

~~We aim to improve the health outcomes for Indigenous people. This initiative from the Undumbi people is an important step towards Indigenous people taking control of their health and to improve their health outcomes. This initiative has been enabled by the Bligh government's support of our Indigenous people, working side by side with them, respecting their culture and allowing them to lead the way to a better future for their people. This Labor government is about improving the health outcomes and lifestyles of all Queenslanders.~~

CRIMINAL PROCEEDS CONFISCATION (SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME UNEXPLAINED WEALTH) AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.36 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002 and the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 for particular purposes. 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: Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Serious and Organised Crime Unexplained Wealth) Amendment Bill 2010.

Tabled paper: Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Serious and Organised Crime Unexplained Wealth) Amendment Bill 2010, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.36 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill is seen by many in law enforcement and the broader community as the best way forward to smash organised crime. The aim of this bill is to destroy the financial incentive to commit and engage in organised crime. The two core concepts introduced in this bill include (1) the concept of unexplained wealth; and (2), the concept of a drug trafficker declaration. The proposed bill defines unexplained wealth as wealth that is greater than the person's wealth that was lawfully acquired.

Under existing Queensland law, for the state to confiscate assets there has to be a direct connection between the assets and the criminal offences, that is, the prosecution must first prove a nexus between criminal activity and assets derived from crime. The proposed bill allows for the confiscation of not just unexplained assets legally owned by individuals but also assets effectively controlled or gifted away by that person.

The way forward in tackling organised crime is not through anti-association laws which, to date, have never been used and may never be used; it is about stripping the wealth from organised crime groups and persons who participate in organised crime. I have said it before, and I reiterate, that the bill will also have the effect of financially devastating anyone convicted of dealing in drugs by allowing the state to seize all assets obtained or acquired by a declared drug trafficker within the past six years.

In view of the time I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my second reading speech.

Leave granted.

As the LNP's Bill is far reaching, the Bill ensures adequate safeguards in the form of a Public Interest Monitor. A Public Interest Monitor may then appear at any hearing and test the evidence and make submissions in the public interest. They are not gagged or hindered in any way.

Further safeguards have been included into the Bill which allow for hardship provisions and legal aid assistance.

As I stated previously, this Bill seeks to make it easier to confiscate assets and remove the key motivation for organised crime. The LNP's proposed Bill will break the back of organised crime in Queensland and I welcome the fact that just recently New South Wales has moved to also introduce such laws and I look forward to bipartisan support for this Bill.

Mr Speaker, in concluding, in presenting these amendments they form part of the LNP's strategic policy to win back the war on drugs and organised crime in Queensland.

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Debate, on motion of Mr Dick, adjourned.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

White Ribbon Day; Animal Cruelty

Ms DARLING (Sandgate ALP) (11.39 am): Tomorrow is White Ribbon Day, the international day for the elimination of violence against women. Women and girls around the world are facing gross discrimination just because of their gender, having health care and education withheld, being sold and traded like commodities, being abused and killed. In Australia and in my own electorate of Sandgate there is still unacceptable abuse and violence towards women, and I make the pledge to never remain silent while this abuse continues.

A wonderful local community organisation in my area, Sandbag, provides domestic violence counselling services for families all over north Brisbane. I have been a vocal advocate for their services since I was elected, and I was thrilled when Minister Karen Struthers announced that a full time DV coordinator position will be funded by the Queensland government at Sandbag for a further three years. Annuschka and her volunteers are doing a tremendous job but, sadly, they are providing more counselling to children than ever before.

I have also been appalled by reports of animal abuse in recent times. I have been following reports on the health of Frodo, the joey koala who was found next to his dead mother and had been shot several times. These acts of cruelty are disgusting in their own right, but research has shown that people who abuse animals very often go on to abuse people, too. Our strength in animal protection laws mean that acts of animal cruelty can result in a fine of up to \$100,000 or two years imprisonment for an individual. Even so, I understand the call by some members of the public to impose even harsher penalties.

During the 2009 financial year RSPCA Queensland responded to 11,718 animal cruelty complaints and 8,822 animal rescue calls. We have amazing volunteers who care for our most vulnerable people and animals and I urge everyone to watch out for your fellow creature this coming holiday season.

Baker, Dr Jim AM

Mr HOBBS (Warrego LNP) (11.41 am): I wish to advise this parliament of the recognition given by Roma Rotary to the late Dr Jim Baker AM and the annual awarding of the Jim Baker Medal for Vocational Service. Dr Jim Baker AM, who passed away recently, was the creator of Queensland's flying obstetrician-gynaecologist service and revolutionised the delivery of health services in rural Queensland. In 1988, Dr Baker set up the Roma-based service in conjunction with Queensland Health to improve access to vital medical advice and procedures for rural women and to assist general practitioners in country towns.

On Australia Day 1996, Dr Baker was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia with the citation 'in recognition of service to medicine, particularly in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology'. Following his retirement in 2001, Jim was able to direct his full attention to the operation of his grazing enterprise at Lighthouse, where he had previously also established the Lighthouse Transport Co. He was a founding and life member of the Livestock Transport Association of Queensland.

Dr Jim Baker was also a member of our Rotary Club for a number of years and some time ago, to acknowledge his longstanding membership of Rotary and commitment to the club, he was granted honorary member status. Throughout his life and throughout his membership of our club, Jim had a particular interest in a high level of vocational service, both as an ideal and as a work ethic. Vocational service is serving others through the workplace in any field of employment—professional, trade, sales or service— aspiring to achieve high ethical standards, aiming to share skills and expertise through vocations and inspiring others in the process. It is evidenced by pride in workmanship, a sense of responsibility to do a job well, doing it correctly the first time, excellence in customer service and respect of peers.

The Rotary Club of Roma has established an annual award of merit, with the recipient selected from nominations received from responses to a public invitation, in recognition of Jim's lifelong dedication to the principles of vocational service.