

~~Programs delivered either directly or through third-party providers include: Ending Family Violence, raising awareness of domestic violence and its impacts upon families; MPower and Family Income Management, which increases financial literacy and modifies behaviour for asset growth and secure futures; a parenting program based on PPP, extending the thought 'it takes a village to raise a child'; and student case management, to increase attendance at schools, which is where we know with certainty that the framework for functional societal standards can be established, nurtured and practised to ensure they are the norms of behaviour in communities into the future.~~

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

~~Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.~~

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VICIOUS LAWLESS ASSOCIATION DISESTABLISHMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act for the purpose of disestablishing vicious lawless associations. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Bill 2013

Tabled paper: Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Bill 2013, explanatory notes

I am pleased to introduce the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Bill 2013. This bill is part of a package of measures the Newman government is introducing to tackle organised crime in Queensland. The bill aims to create a new act that will:

- disestablish associations that encourage, foster or support persons who commit serious offences;
- increase public safety and security by the disestablishment of the associations; and
- deny to persons who commit serious offences the assistance and support gained from association with other persons who participate in the affairs of the association.

These aims will be achieved by:

- imposing significant terms of imprisonment for vicious lawless associates who commit declared offences;
- removing the possibility of parole for vicious lawless associates serving terms of imprisonment except in limited circumstances; and
- encouraging vicious lawless associates to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of serious criminal activity.

The new act will apply to people who participate in the affairs of associations and who commit declared offences for the purposes of or in the course of participating in the affairs of the relevant association. The intention is to characterise persons as vicious lawless associates who belong to associations which encourage, support or foster the commission of offences and who are, therefore, persons who commit offences as part of their membership activities. A vicious lawless associate will be sentenced for the declared offence but will also receive a further 15 years mandatory imprisonment, cumulative to any imprisonment imposed for the declared offence. If the vicious lawless associate was, at the time of the commission of the offence, an office-bearer of the relevant association, they will receive a further 10 years imprisonment, cumulative to the 15 years and the original term of imprisonment.

The bill makes clear that the extra punishment is mandatory and cannot be reduced by the sentencing court. Further, parole will not apply to the extra punishment unless the associate cooperates with the police and other law enforcement agencies. This lever to induce informants to cooperate is a very important part of the punishment regime. An offender will only be able to mitigate his or her sentence via section 13A of the Penalties and Sentences Act where the Police Commissioner is satisfied that the cooperation will be of significant use in a proceeding about a declared offence. This will ensure that only effective cooperation is rewarded. Especially for recent recruits, where a gang member is facing an additional mandatory term of imprisonment of up to 25 years, they may well choose to become an informant. This will be an important mechanism for destroying these gangs as it will drive a wedge into the membership so that morale is broken. Codes

of silence and oaths of loyalty are fractured when it becomes clear that some of those being protected by silence have sold out. The mandatory terms of imprisonment will also make it less attractive for criminals to be part of these gangs and will enhance community safety by providing for the severe punishment for serious offending.

A review of the provisions contained in the new Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act will occur three years after commencement. It is imperative that this bill be passed as a matter of urgency to ensure the public is protected from the serious criminal activities of criminal associations. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): 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.

Debate, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk, adjourned.

~~TATTOO PARLOURS BILL~~

~~Introduction~~



~~**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the licensing and regulation of body art tattooing businesses and body art tattooists and other related matters and to amend the Liquor Act 1992 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes.~~

~~*Tabled paper: Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013.*~~

~~*Tabled paper: Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013, explanatory notes.*~~

~~I am pleased to introduce the Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013. As part of a package of measures the government is introducing to tackle organised crime in Queensland, the government has made a commitment to ban members of criminal organisations from owning, operating or working in body art tattoo parlours. The principal objective of the bill is to introduce a new occupational licensing and regulatory framework which eliminates and prevents infiltration of the Queensland tattoo industry by criminal organisations, including criminal motorcycle gangs and their associates. The act that will be created as a result of the Tattoo Parlours Bill is very similar to legislation that was recently passed in New South Wales after a number of drive-by shootings, fire bombings and violence that had occurred at tattoo parlours linked to criminal motorcycle gangs.~~

~~Under the new scheme, people will be prohibited from conducting a body art tattooing business or from performing a body art tattooing procedure, with certain limited exceptions, without the authority of a licence or permit. Licence applicants will be required to satisfy strict identification requirements and as part of the application process will be required to provide their finger and palm prints. The bill allows the Commissioner of Police to conduct investigations into licence applicants and licensees and their associates to ensure that only fit and proper persons are granted and able to hold licences and that granting a licence would not be contrary to the public interest. Unlicensed trading will result in penalties of up to 18 months imprisonment. The provisions of the bill will primarily be enforced by the Queensland Police Service. The new act will be a vital tool in ensuring that the stranglehold criminal motorcycle gangs have over the tattoo industry in Queensland is broken. The new act will commence by proclamation, with the licensing scheme commencing on 6 January 2014 and the compliance provisions to commence on 1 July 2014.~~

~~The bill also amends the Liquor Act 1992 to prohibit members of criminal motorcycle gangs from wearing or displaying material associated with criminal motorcycle gangs while in liquor licensed venues and within areas prescribed by regulation. These violent gangs use their symbols to intimidate others and without these symbols the gang members become just ordinary thugs. Preventing gang members from wearing or displaying material associated with their gang is another tool that may be used to break the gang mentality and mitigate some of the risks arising out of physical confrontations between rival gangs. The amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 will commence on assent.~~