



Speech by

Mrs E. CUNNINGHAM

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard 18 November 1998

TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—IND) (9.55 p.m.): There is only one issue that I want to raise with the Minister, and it is not a problem with the proposal per se. However, a group contacted my office only today expressing some concern about the issues affecting their particular trade, and they have asked that I raise their concerns with the Minister. Initially, they expressed some disappointment that they were not included in discussions regarding the proposal. The letter from the Queensland Master Hairdressers Industrial Union of Employers stated—

"We have members operating shops in shopping centres and the proposed changes, sought by the Retailers Association of Queensland, are likely to cause them severe financial hardship.

The situation is exacerbated by the difficulty we have in obtaining quality factual information on the proposed changes.

As we understand it, if all shops are made to close on Saturday, 26th December our members will lose a day's trading but still have to pay each of their employees for the Saturday. Members with salons in shopping centres will face the additional impost of having to pay their staff at a rate of double time and a half if, in addition to closing on Saturday, they are forced by the terms of their leases to trade on the gazetted Public Holiday (i.e. Monday, 28th December).

As staff will have the option of working or not working on the official gazetted holiday, it is likely that some of our members will not have sufficient staff on the Monday to open their salons and they could thus find themselves falling foul of the provisions of their leases."

Then they asked this question—

"Minister, is it possible, in your submission to the House on 17th November, for you to include a provision for individual salon owners to make the decision to trade or not to trade on the 28th December without fear of being in breach of the terms of their shop leases? We feel this protection is vitally important.

Any assistance you can give us in this matter will be greatly appreciated."

I pass on their concerns for the Minister's consideration.
