



Speech by

Hon. WENDY EDMOND

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard 12 November 1998

HEALTH PRACTITIONERS (SPECIAL EVENTS EXEMPTION) BILL

Hon. W. M. EDMOND (Mount Coot-tha— ALP) (Minister for Health) (4.32 p.m.), in reply: I thank the member for Maroochydore and the member for Cairns for their support of this Bill, and indeed I thank all members of the House for their interest and support. It is an important Bill to pass with special events coming up in the near future. I make the point that teams from overseas have already visited Queensland as a prelude to the Olympic Games.

I have circulated a number of amendments that I do not think will be controversial. They take into account comments made by the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee which, on perusal, I have agreed with. I put those amendments forward. The amendments simply provide a slight change to the way a special event will be declared. It is now proposed that a special event and the time frame for the exemption be declared by regulation and all other matters be dealt with via a notice published in the Gazette by the Minister. The committee also sought further information as to what other services are anticipated might be accommodated via a regulation under the definition of health services and why those services are not dealt with in the definition of "health services" itself.

The committee is correct in its initial assumption in paragraph 3.36 of the Alert Digest that the policy intent behind the proposed regulation-making powers is to permit additional categories of health practitioners to be added at a later date if necessary. Having considered the matter, we have determined that if it is necessary to register an additional category of health practitioner in the future in Queensland, then a consequential amendment can be made to this legislation to incorporate such a change at that time. Therefore, I propose to omit the reference to a regulation-making power in the definition of "health care services" contained in the Schedule of the Bill. I will move an amendment to that effect as part of the list of amendments that have been circulated.

Again I take this opportunity to thank the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee for its interest and comments. As I have said, we have accepted those comments and have acted upon them. I thank all members for their participation.
