



Speech by

**Hon. R. GIBBS**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Hansard 11 November 1999

**LIQUOR (EVICTIONS, UNLICENSED SALES AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. R. J. GIBBS** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing) (4.30 p.m.), in reply: I appreciate the contribution made by the Opposition spokesman, the member for Toowoomba North, who obviously displayed a considerable knowledge of the amendments which are before the House. I am aware of his family background in the Toowoomba area. One little story I have heard is that when his father used to come out from behind the bar and control them nicely, he used to hide behind his father so that he would not be part of the action.

**Mr HEALY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks of the Minister to be offensive and untrue. I did nothing of the sort. I was right there with him. I ask that the comments be withdrawn.

**Mr GIBBS:** I withdraw. I did say it glibly, with a degree of humour. I am aware that the member's family does hold a very revered position in Toowoomba in terms of the hotel industry and that they are held in high regard. He does have a great knowledge and I appreciate his support for the legislation.

The member for Whitsunday also spoke in support of the legislation. I also appreciate that. He did raise a legitimate concern about the possibility of people who do get a little bit intoxicated at hotels perhaps being manhandled a little more than they should be by bouncers from time to time. I am aware that that does happen. I think we all know that that can happen on licensed premises.

I think the good news can be found when we compare the situation today with what it was like 10 years ago. Unfortunately, people used to get a flogging in hotels. These days, as a result of amendments and the tightening up of legislation, there is a requirement to have people working in those establishments as bouncers. The member would be aware that they now must be licensed and undertake a training course in order to be employed. Over the past couple of years I have been impressed by the large degree of improvement in the professional standard of people employed in that particular role, whether they be in hotels or nightclubs.

Of course, that goes hand in hand with the licensee. Good licensees will ensure that they have responsible crowd controllers, as they are now called, who use minimal force or enough force to restrain a person who is being violent or who is resisting being removed from the premises. The member would probably be aware that, should it occur that that is done with too much vigour and an assault does take place—there certainly have been cases in recent times where that has happened—upon complaint people have a right to take that matter before the court. There have been convictions of people who simply do not play the game appropriately. That is the safeguard.

From the Liquor Licensing Division, for which I am responsible, there are ongoing training courses for publicans and licensees to teach them what responsible laws are about, and patron behaviour forms an important part of that. With that goes, of course, the licensing and proper controlling or training of crowd controllers themselves. I thank honourable members for their support for the legislation.

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