



Speech by

KEN TURNER

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Hansard 27 October 1999

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

Mr TURNER (Thuringowa—IND) (10.56 p.m.): It is with passion that I commend the Liquor Amendment Bill to the House. The member for Toowoomba North, by putting forward this Bill, demonstrates his patriotism for his country and loyalty to all Australians who fought to defend our country and way of life, many of whom made the supreme sacrifice. To me, Anzac Day is a time when all members of our community should be able to come together in remembrance of the fallen. I ask that Government provide support by passing this Bill to ensure that Anzac Day celebrations can be conducted without unwanted interruptions by nightclub revellers and the like who, at the time of dawn services, are leaving these venues, often in an intoxicated state, and who cause problems that I am sure may not have happened were they sober.

In response to some of the comments from the other side and to the Minister, when I attended the dawn service at Thuringowa last Anzac Day there were four young men who came to the service who were drunk. They did not cause major problems, but their laughing and joking certainly made people uncomfortable. I believe they had been clubbing and came to the dawn service with good intentions, but alcohol certainly makes people loud and jocular, which is not welcome at a remembrance service. I saw this as a situation that has the potential to happen on a larger scale. For example, the attitude might be, "We're going to the dawn service, so let's go clubbing and go to the dawn service afterwards." This is becoming more prevalent amongst that age group. They do not mean to offend people. When they get there and they start laughing and joking, they do not mean to be disrespectful. However, the older ladies are most offended when they hear this going on behind them when they are having a little cry. That is a very serious problem. To say that it is not happening is a fallacy because it is happening and on a fairly large scale, but not to the point at which it would ever need to be reported or where the police would even need to take action. There is no law against laughing and joking. They are not intentionally being disrespectful and it would never be reported.

I have three immediate family members in the services and one who has just received her discharge to raise a family. They will be serving in East Timor very shortly and they also served in Rwanda. We have always attended Anzac Day dawn services and celebrations later in the day. I cannot see why this Bill, which advocates a few less hours of late night drinking activities one night a year, should not be approved. I commend it to the House.
