



Speech by

**Mr LEN STEPHAN**

**MEMBER FOR GYMPIE**

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### LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

**Mr STEPHAN** (Gympie—NPA) (8.51 p.m.): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to join the debate on the Liquor Amendment Bill. Those people we honour on Anzac Day paid the supreme sacrifice. There is no doubt in my mind that the community has a very high regard for what they did and the conditions under which they did it, and we certainly remember them for it. By attending ceremonies on Anzac Day, we show that Australia remembers. It is also very encouraging to observe the participation of younger people in various services around the countryside on Anzac Day.

The younger generation speak very highly indeed of the men and women who went before them and of those who gave the supreme sacrifice. They recognise the various campaigns in the war to keep our country as free as it is today. Anzac Day is certainly an opportunity to remember those who fought and those who paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives, many of whom were in the prime of their life. Anzac Day in no way glorifies war or conflict. Rather, it recognises the heroic activities of those people for the benefit of future generations. Anzac Day is recognised as one of the three special days in the calendar year, along with Good Friday and Christmas Day. We cannot push Anzac Day aside and say, "It's just another day", and that we will continue with our lives irrespective of it. It is a day we are bound to remember. By remembering, we show our younger generation that we care for those who went before us.

This legislation simply means that the sale of alcohol will cease at midnight before Anzac Day. Surely, as others have said, that is not a very high price to pay. There is special provision for the chief executive to approve the purchase of alcohol in particular cases—that is, where alcohol is consumed on a site with a meal. There is nothing wrong with having alcohol with a meal under those conditions; that is not just a smart way to simply purchase alcohol. The legislation is an appropriate gesture to the memory of those who fought and died under very difficult circumstances.

It is very encouraging to know that young people do respect those men and women who have gone before them. They respect them for what they did. Even though the younger generation were not involved 40 or 50 years ago, those men and women are people the younger generation can look up to. They are to be respected. In fact, we should be able to say, "We want to be like that."

The removal of the potential for problems is an important role for this Parliament. Many young people who are involved with and who attend dawn services are very touched by them. They certainly remember what they see at those ceremonies. It is a great credit to those young people, whether they be seven years of age, eight years of age, nine years of age or in their teenage years. They do remember. They do want to take part in those ceremonies. They want to ensure that they hand down for future generations the opportunity to be part of dawn services and the respect they show for their forebears.

As I said, this legislation in no way glorifies war. It recognises the heroic activities of many of those who were taken away from their homes and their loved ones and ensures that they are a part of future generations. This Bill is about cementing respect to our Anzacs and to our Anzac tradition. Many Anzacs are waiting for the Anzac Day Amendment Bill to be debated by the Parliament and put to the vote. It is great that we as a Parliament can give them that opportunity. It is great that we are able to remember those people who served under those conditions.

We also cannot forget the national service personnel who have gone away from time to time to serve in many other parts of the Commonwealth and other parts of the world. We salute them. We respect them and wish them well. I join with members on this side of the Chamber in supporting this legislation.

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