



Speech by

**KEN TURNER**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Hansard 18 October 2000

**DEFAMATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr TURNER** (Thuringowa—IND) (10.34 p.m.): I rise to support the Defamation Amendment Bill 1999 put forward by the member for Ipswich West. As members of Parliament, we are regularly placed in situations that this Bill, if passed, would address.

When a constituent comes to a member's electorate office or advises in writing of a concern that they need help with, then the situation could arise where information is passed to members' staff and then passed on to various departments for comment or address.

I must confess that it had not occurred to me that our staff and constituents could face a defamation claim in certain circumstances. I believe that protection laws against such defamation claims should be put in place in the interests of staff, constituents and justice.

I support the amendment put forward by the member for Logan. However, I would like to have seen a time frame put in place for report back to Parliament by the committee.

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