



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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CELEBRATE SAFE PARTY PACK

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (12.06 p.m.): The media spotlight has recently turned to a subject that members of this House and parents are likely to be familiar with—teenage parties that turn sour. Teenage parties are an integral part of the life of adolescents. For parents, however, they can be a worry. Our own Government Whip would understand that very well.

Mr Lucas: Did you crash that party?

Mr BRISKEY: No. In recent months I have had calls from constituents within my electorate who have reported hundreds of uninvited teenagers turning up to their teenagers' parties consuming alcohol and sometimes drugs, damaging property and disturbing neighbours. A marked increase in the number of these disturbances has prompted local police to develop a strategy to help those planning a party to ensure that their event does not turn sour.

In developing the Celebrate Safe Party Pack, police within the Wynnum police district are not advocating that parents put a stop to parties altogether; rather the Celebrate Safe Party Pack takes a commonsense approach to providing information that party organisers need to keep in mind when organising an event.

No doubt because this problem has become a common one, a recent *Sunday Mail* article carried reports of parents hiring security guards to prevent uninvited guests from causing havoc. The Internet is also providing a challenge for parents—my children spend quite a bit of time chatting to friends on the Internet—and unfortunately it does not take long for the chain of information to commence. It takes only one email to be forwarded to a number of other people and almost immediately hundreds of people know about a party.

I take this opportunity to thank Sergeant Joe Cranich of Wynnum police district, whose team—

Mr Lucas: A St Laurence's old boy!

Mr BRISKEY: He certainly is, and I have my 30th reunion coming up next month. I thank Sergeant Joe Cranich and the Lions Challenge Club of Cleveland for their efforts in producing the Celebrate Safe Party Pack. Similar projects are operating in Queensland and interstate with great success, and I am confident the same results can happen here.

I understand from my colleague, the member for Mackay, that his local police in Mackay have recently instituted a program called Party Smart in the countdown to schoolies week this year.

Under the Celebrate Safe Party Pack program, members of the public hosting private functions are encouraged to register their party with police to provide forewarning to police and allow them to instigate patrols of the area. This allows police to monitor the area, and their presence will discourage illegal or antisocial behaviour. A Steps to a Smarter Party kit will also be provided free of charge to party organisers to assist in planning safe celebrations and ensure organisers address antisocial, road safety and alcohol consumption issues.

While the Celebrate Safe Party Pack will go a long way toward assisting the community with what can sometimes be a troublesome issue, it needs to be remembered that the community also has a role to play. Police actively encourage residents to make complaints if incidents like this occur, and they can dispatch officers to move on rowdy partygoers. If disorderly behaviour or other illegal activities are occurring, police will most certainly charge those offenders. However, it must be noted that parents of teenagers hosting parties need to take some social responsibility in these circumstances and work with their children to discourage alcohol consumption or antisocial behaviour at such functions. Uninvited guests should be refused entry, and if they do not leave the police should be called immediately.

There are a number of questions parents and their teenage children need to ask in preparing for a party. Some of these are: who is coming to the party; how many people will be there; how will they be invited; how will you deal with alcohol brought by guests; who will serve drinks; what time will the party finish; will any guests stay over; how will adult supervision be carried out and by whom; and how will you handle gatecrashers? Answering these questions in the preparation stages of a party might just prevent a party from becoming a disaster.

Hosting and attending parties is very much a major part of teenagers' lives. Having two teenage daughters, I can personally attest to this fact. These parties should be made safe events, and with proper preparation and planning they can be. Once again I take this opportunity to thank Joe Cranich, Wynnum police, and President Tony Booth and members of the Lions Challenge Club of Cleveland.

Time expired.
