



Speech by

**Dr DAVID WATSON**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Hansard 16 April 2002

**PONY CLUB ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND**

**Dr WATSON** (Moggill—Lib) (7.25 p.m.): In common with other members, last week I received a letter from the state president of the Pony Club Association of Queensland Incorporated, Mr John Mawhinney. The state president pointed out that the Pony Club Association of Queensland is a voluntary youth organisation with over 11,000 members in about 245 clubs throughout the state.

The association was formed in 1958, but many of the clubs were established before that association was formed. In fact, my electorate has quite a few of those clubs including, if my memory serves me correctly, the oldest club in Queensland. The letter is about the issue of public liability insurance. He was concerned that public liability insurance for the association expires at midnight on 31 December 2002. I am sure he will be pleased by the government's response yesterday to at least implement a group insurance scheme taking place from 1 September this year. I know other organisations feel that that is too late, but at least there is some possibility for the Pony Club Association to take advantage of that. Whether or not it does, of course, depends on the outcome of that process and whether it affects the potential insurance premiums to a significant extent.

The Liberal Party takes this issue seriously, so seriously that at the federal council meeting over the weekend the first motion related to public liability insurance. The federal council wanted to convey to the federal government its grave concerns that exorbitant public liability insurance premium increases have the potential to emasculate business as well as community based organisations. It urged the federal government and the state in particular to recognise their responsibilities in this area.

Most members would know that the federal government has moved to coordinate responses from the states. In a ministerial meeting on 27 March the federal government moved to, in the shorter term, encourage group buying schemes amongst community groups and not-for-profit organisations, such as the government announced yesterday, and in the longer term to get states to respond by examining a range of procedures, including reform of the broadly based tort law. That is a particularly important issue for this state. I hope the government moves quickly to address that type of longer term issue. The federal government has agreed to change the tax laws to encourage the use of structured settlements.

Time expired.