



Speech by

CARRYN SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Hansard 7 October 2003

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.26 p.m.): Previous speakers have highlighted the need for compulsory training of liquor licensees, so I will concentrate my remarks on access to training—an issue which is paramount to the success of this bill and one which the member for Gladstone has just raised some concerns about.

In Queensland there are an estimated 1,600 potential training participants per year. Whilst this number is expected to drop after the first few years as more industry operators receive training, access is of primary concern, particularly given the geographic spread of Queensland's licensed premises. Early consultation with industry canvassed views on delivery methods including online delivery via the Internet or through CD-ROM, but overwhelmingly face-to-face delivery was demanded. The division has previously developed a responsible service of alcohol course which may be undertaken by distance learning. However, it is not utilised in this fashion. Operators demand classroom style sessions where they have a chance to interact and share information. Additionally, low literacy rates throughout the industry deter reading based study.

Whilst online delivery may be a cheaper method and may remove accessibility issues, the liquor industry has indicated that the proposed pricing structure is reasonable and that some travel is accepted by the remote operators who will need to participate. It is recognised that private training providers will not deliver courses in areas where lower attendances may be experienced, such as rural and more remote districts. In this regard, the Liquor Licensing Division's trainer will fill the breach. Training courses will be advertised for specific locations at set times throughout the year when courses will be conducted and, whilst some travel may still be involved, this will improve overall access to participants.

As a member of the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee, we considered this bill in detail and raised no issues within its terms of reference. I thank the minister and her staff for taking positive steps towards continually reviewing how alcohol is served and where and by whom. I was concerned to read recently of an application for a liquor licence in Morayfield at the swimming pool complex. I have concerns about this as it is a family oriented recreational facility. I think we need to look closely at where liquor licences are granted. Alcohol is a huge social problem, as everyone here would attest to, and I think we have to be very mindful of families and associated recreational areas in this regard. I commend the bill to the House.