



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard 07 October 2003

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (4.10 p.m.): I rise to speak to the Liquor Amendment Bill 2003. I acknowledge that the liquor industry does support this training initiative. This is very much a positive. Liquor industry associations raised the issue of training for liquor licensees in March 2001 and requested that our government consider the development of a mandatory course. The proposal highlighted industry concerns with uninformed and irresponsible operators whose business practices negatively impact upon other licensees and the community. It was suggested that mandatory training was necessary for the responsible development of the industry.

Industry associations have provided further assistance to the department in terms of course development, providing representatives for working groups and identifying other licensees with appropriate expertise to assist. Some industry associations may eventually seek approval for an association trainer to deliver the course and will no doubt link the licensees course to other courses they provide for a complete package and to encourage association membership. It is considered that the course will also be promoted within the industry as necessary for career development and therefore participants will include people other than prospective licensees and nominees.

Many people realise that there are some fine family owned and run licensed hotels right across Queensland. My family has for many generations been proud to call the Flannerys of Ipswich both close friends and relatives. Norma, I am proud to say, is my godmother. This Saturday night she will celebrate with Dennis 50 years of marriage. My mum and dad will join them on this special occasion but, sadly, another electorate commitment prohibits me from travelling to Ipswich. Norma and Dennis have run one such fine establishment in the very well-known Ulster Hotel in Ipswich. Prior to the Flannerys running it, Dan Dempsey, Norma's father, ran the pub for many years.

I am encouraged by the positive attitude of many licensees who take a proactive approach to the responsibilities within our community. Harry Reed, Margaret Reed and Ken Reed of the Sunshine Coast are about to construct a hotel in my electorate—in fact, in my neighbourhood at Chancellor Park. I have no doubt that licensee Ashley Robinson, a former publican of both Mooloolaba and Kawana pubs, will do a fine job of ensuring that the families are well catered for.

In the past I have raised issues with the minister relating to obtaining licences for community groups who work at raising funds, sometimes by facilitating events at which alcohol is sold and consumed. One such group that has raised concerns with me is the Sunshine Coast Health Services Foundation. This is a positive, community-minded, big-hearted group. Mike Kelly, a leading Sunshine Coast businessman, is chairman of the Sunshine Coast Health Services Foundation. He has worked tirelessly and hard along with manager Lisa Rowe, and their work has been supported by Dr William Rodgers OBE, OA; Cathy Johnson; Graham Colley OAM; Ian McDonald from Noosa Heads; and Caroline Hutchinson, a talented writer and the most positive and proactive breakfast announcer, I believe, currently in the media today. Caroline Hutchinson and Peter Lange on 92.7 Mix FM are always the greatest way to start the day, instead of listening to or reading about so much negativity in our society. I am happy to say that I start my day in the very positive way of listening to Peter and Caroline.

Ms Male: As do I. They are excellent breakfast announcers—always positive.

Mr CUMMINS: Hear, hear. This group on the Sunshine Coast is a very positive group. Natasha Reid is also part of the board. Natasha works as a human resources specialist and is now working with the well-respected Juniper Development Group. The group also consists of Mark Tolley, from Down to Business; John Miller; Greg Veigh; Martin Jarman, who is the district manager of Nambour Hospital; Noel Werrim; and Peter Connelly.

On behalf of the people I represent on the Sunshine Coast I commend the Sunshine Coast Health Services Foundation and say well done. The Sunshine Coast is a far better place for the efforts that people like you put in. I hope that you never allow negative criticism to stop what you know in your heart is right—working for the people within our society, within our great community on the Sunshine Coast. Tonight I say 'bon appetit' as they join Queensland Health Minister Wendy Edmond and me for dinner. May God bless them. I commend the bill to the House.