



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard 14 October 2003

ARTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (5.15 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Arts Legislation Amendment Bill 2003. I must confess my personal interest in this area and in this piece of legislation. My wife, Cathy, is very much into the arts and has even managed to develop a little bit of culture in me.

Mr Choi: Yes, an art lover.

Mr BRISKEY: Very much an art lover. She enjoys attending many cultural events, as I do, but is also an active participant in the Mount Cotton drama group where she has acted in many plays and has even directed one. She even convinced me to perform alongside her in a play quite a while ago. This year Cathy and I also acted in *Love Letters*, which is a Redlands branch of the Arts Council production, which was expertly directed by Terry Annersley.

Mrs Carryn Sullivan: What was your role?

Mr BRISKEY: There were only two people in the play. It was *Love Letters*. It was letters written between two people all their lives. It was a marvellous production. Some people think a proportion of politics is acting and dramatics, but given my performance in this and other plays it really goes to show that you do not need to be professionally trained at NIDA to get a gig as a politician. I proved that on the opening night of both of those plays.

This bill clearly sets out a number of guiding principles for our cultural authorities in Queensland. It also promotes unity and adds to the purpose of the work already undertaken by the five statutory authorities, namely the Queensland Art Gallery, the State Library, the Queensland Museum, the Queensland Performing Arts Trust and the Queensland Theatre Company. There are a number of principles in the amendment, but I would like to make note of a couple which I personally think are important, namely, that children and young people should be supported in their contribution to and appreciation of art and culture, and that capabilities for lifelong learning should be developed.

In my previous career as a teacher I believe these were important points to reaffirm for young people and adolescents. A love for the arts and culture is something which develops at a very young age. I am sure the first memory of theatre for many children was the Arts Council, which would travel to schools putting on performances. It was also a very exciting day when classes were cancelled in lieu of sitting cross-legged to watch a show performed by talented actors especially designed for children. I must admit that I also very much looked forward to and enjoyed these performances as a teacher.

I am also pleased to note that amendments in this bill are consistent with and in support of the Creative Queensland policy—the Queensland government's cultural policy launched last year after extensive community consultation. These amendments and the honourable minister's commitment to the arts are to be supported.