



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

Member for MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 7 October 2003

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.32 p.m.): The need for the compulsory training of liquor licensees has emerged from concerns with the liquor and hospitality industry and government sectors that compliance issues and local disturbances stem from poorly trained licensees and liquor licence nominees. Lack of knowledge regarding license compliance issues appears to be the nub of the problem. This lack of knowledge has resulted in management practises which, in many cases, have a direct adverse impact on the immediate and surrounding community.

This bill will require new licensees and nominees to provide evidence of having attended a licensees course as part of their liquor application process, introduce a scheme for the approval of trainers to deliver the licensees course and clarify that areas under a special facility licence may be subleased by the licensee to another person. The flow-on effect of poor management practises often compels other licensees to drop their standards down to the same level to compete and exacerbates the already high incidence of business closures across the industry.

It is considered that a mandatory training system for prospective licensees will provide the capacity within the industry to improve business practises and reduce local area disturbances. A recent decision of the Supreme Court of Queensland has raised questions regarding the validity of subleases for special facility licences. The bill includes an amendment relating to these facility licences. The proposed amendment seeks to confirm that subleasing arrangements may be approved for this category of licence.

Industry bodies including Clubs Queensland, Queensland Cabarets Association, Queensland Hotels Association, Restaurant and Catering Queensland and local authorities through the Local Government Association of Queensland have been consulted and are generally supportive of these proposals. Any expenditure associated with the implementation of these legislative amendments will be met through existing departmental budget allocations and should not impose a financial burden on licensees. Fees will naturally be charged for course delivery and materials where officers of the department will be involved in delivery. I commend the bill to the House.