



Speech by

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PUBLIC HEALTH [INFECTION CONTROL FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCE SERVICES] BILL

Ms NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (11.22 p.m.): I rise to support the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Bill 2003. Queenslanders can now expect to live well into their 70s and 80s due to improved public health services and also better diets, living conditions and other social and lifestyle factors.

Mrs Carryn Sullivan interjected.

Ms NELSON-CARR: I have not got to that one yet. As we enter the 21st century, the prevention of disease remains a target for further improvements in health outcomes. The objective of this bill is to minimise the risk of infection that may occur from the provision of personal appearance services—that is, hairdressing, beauty therapy, tattooing and piercing. Prior to the bill's development, significant research was undertaken to identify what infections may occur from personal appearance services, how they occur and how they might best be reduced or prevented.

This bill provides a legislative framework that will enable infection risks from personal appearance services to be kept to a minimum. The bill establishes a statutory duty on all business proprietors and operators who provide personal appearance services to take reasonable steps to minimise infection risks. They can do this by observing the infection control guidelines made under the bill. The infection control guidelines will provide clear information about standard infection control precautions whereby all blood and body fluids must be assumed to be potential sources of blood-borne infections and where specific practices are required to protect people from the transmission of those infections. The guidelines also provide clear, user-friendly information about environmental cleaning, instrument cleaning and sterilisation, and personal hygiene.

The bill also requires that all businesses providing specified higher risk services must hold a licence. Licensees must be suitable persons to hold a licence and must also ensure that their higher risk business premises, both fixed and mobile, meet specific requirements to ensure that safe infection control practices can be carried out in those premises. In addition, the bill requires that higher risk operators—that is, tattooists and body piercers—must hold an infection control qualification. This will ensure that these operators have appropriate infection control knowledge and demonstrated skills in infection control practices.

The bill gives local governments throughout Queensland all necessary administration and enforcement powers, including licensing powers for higher risk services and monitoring powers relevant to all personal appearance services. This bill therefore addresses the relative risks of infection that may arise from personal appearance services, establishes a framework for minimising those risks and provides an appropriate level of protection to the public. I commend the bill to the House.