



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Hansard Wednesday, 12 May 2004

SMOKING BANS

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (5.57 p.m.): In speaking to the motion as amended, I would like to make a couple of small points in relation to the matters raised by the member for Moggill. The first step in the modernisation of Queensland tobacco control legislation in actual fact was passed by the Borbidge government, but it was the actions of the Labor government subsequent to that which created the situation as it is now that tobacco products are banned in all but very few internal premises, and particularly in pubs and clubs.

If we have a look at the history of the legislation, in 2000 the Beattie government extended legislation even to cover herbal cigarettes, which are classified as 'other smoking products'. Its real commitment to cutting out the use of tobacco in any way, shape or form came with the release of the Queensland Tobacco Action Plan 2001 to 2003-04 which set out the government's intentions for addressing the health and social costs. To fulfil its commitment as outlined under that plan, it amended the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, and that commenced in 2002.

If we have a look at the real commitment to banning cigarettes in relation to children and those people who may have had access, we could have a look at the act's requirements in relation to supplying cigarettes to under 18s. The main offence had an increased penalty from \$975 to \$5,250. It also banned advertising banners and restricted the amount and methods of display of packs, required smoking products in retail outlets to display a good sized 'quit smoking', and there have been many people who have heeded that.

Similar to the member for Moggill, I have worked in pubs and clubs. I have probably also been on the other side of the bar and I would not hesitate to recommend a ban on smoking in pubs and clubs, but that is not what the government is about. The government would like to discuss with the stakeholders the implications of that. There are obviously serious health effects, and they have been outlined by all the speakers.

One of the things that has come out of the Tobacco Action Plan is that nearly all Queenslanders can now work indoors without being exposed to environmental tobacco smoke. The government has shown its real intention in that they commenced their review in November 2003 in relation to pubs and clubs, and it is the pubs and clubs who will have some serious implications in relation to banning of smoking.

As a medical practitioner I would have thought the member for Moggill may have been aware that most people smoke only when they drink, so maybe they have got to close pubs and clubs to stop smoking. There are some real implications for banning cigarettes in pubs and clubs. The government has, in fact, consulted in a preliminary way with stakeholders and will continue to do that. The Minister for Health has indicated that a discussion paper is under way and will be released, and the effect of that discussion paper hopefully will be to ban smoking in pubs and clubs. The reality is that this motion has arisen for no real reason because the government already has the matter under control and is working towards that ban.

