



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 13 May 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Smoking Bans

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 a.m.): I would like to advise the House that, along with the Minister for Health, I am absolutely delighted with the unanimous support from parliament last night for the government's plans to take further steps to help nonsmokers live and work in smoke-free surroundings and to help smokers who want to kick their addiction and regain a healthy lifestyle. Bob, we are with you. More than 3,000 Queenslanders die from tobacco related causes every year.

As I said last night, the government started a review of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 last year. Preliminary consultations with various organisations have already taken place, and the next step will involve the release of a discussion paper. This will invite submissions which will be analysed by Queensland Health, which will prepare a report with recommendations for the minister later this year. The discussion paper addresses not just further bans on smoking but also the full range of issues including advertising and promotion, sales to minors, monitoring, enforcement and licensing.

As I made clear when I was in Ireland earlier this year, the government intends to take clear action in this regard. I have had a number of discussions with the Minister for Health. I am happy to advise the parliament today that the Minister for Health will be taking his discussion paper to cabinet on Monday and it will be released very shortly thereafter. We will be making—

Mr Quinn: Only wanted a bit of prodding.

Mr BEATTIE: It is all right. He can peek into the cabinet bag. I am happy to share it with him. It makes no difference to me. I will have a bit more to say about this later in the day. The more the Liberal Party votes with us, the bigger its vote is. If it keeps supporting the government it will do very well.

Mr Schwarten interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Interestingly, ever since the Liberals started voting with us its vote has gone up, and every time the opposition opposes our policies its vote goes down.

Ms Bligh interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: That is right. Bob, you stick with us and we will be a friendlier coalition partner any day.

Mr Schwarten interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Exactly. The point is that the decision will be made this year. As I said, I have discussed this with the Minister for Health. I do say to the industry lead organisations—the Queensland Hotels Associations, the clubs and the casinos, all of whom we have had discussions with—that we do want them to start an initiative on their own behalf. They should start voluntarily bringing in bans and limitations, and we will work with them to see if we can get some agreement and then there will be legislation.

