



Speech by

Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard Tuesday, 31 October 2006

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Ms CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (9.51 pm): It is my pleasure tonight to rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2006. This legislation demonstrates the wide-ranging modifications that are required to support the government's actions to improve health in Queensland for all Queenslanders. Some aspects of the legislation are obvious in their intent and importance. However, this cannot be said for the lesser known changes to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act. Unknown to most, the legislation is being updated to better reflect and support the provision of training opportunities for both our doctors and other allied health professionals. The study of human anatomy is essential for many health professionals, and the newly established medical and oral health programs at Griffith University, Gold Coast campus, are being supported by the state-of-the-art facilities in the anatomy department. These facilities do not just train new staff but also provide ongoing professional training opportunities for existing health professionals. Thus the Griffith University anatomy facility also provides existing health staff with the chance to perform training workshops to improve existing skills and to train in new skills. The establishment of the Griffith University anatomy facility has been overseen by Professor Allan Cripps, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Health, and Dr Helen Massa, Head of the School of Anatomy, with expert technical guidance from Gino Cepone from the Office of Technical Services. This has resulted in the state-of-the-art facility at the Centre of Medicine and Oral Health in Southport adjacent to the Gold Coast Hospital.

Griffith University's \$6 million facility is designed to ensure that not only the highest standards in workplace health and safety are experienced by staff and students in their quest to study human anatomy, but that they always value and respect the contributions of body donors and their families. The establishment of the newest body bequest program in Australia at Griffith University has contributed to the updating and modification of the legislation that we are discussing tonight. Like all bequest programs, Griffith University's body bequest program aims to facilitate the ongoing provision of education in human anatomy whilst providing generous members of the local community the opportunity to contribute to the training of future generations of health professionals through the donation of their body after death. This personal donation by an individual and their family is considered one of the most generous donations granted to the students and staff of Griffith University.

Anatomy schools around the country perform a vital role in the ongoing training of our health staff, and many of the changes in the Transplantation and Anatomy Act reflect the vision of the need to maximise the sharing of resources, both locally between institutions in Queensland and between states. This ensures that both Queensland and Australian professionals will always benefit from the examination of the human form.

Medical research into the genetic and pathological basis of disease can also be facilitated through these modifications to the act, ultimately aiming to improve the treatment and prevention of those diseases. Thus I support all aspects of the current legislation and commend the effort and vision of all those who have contributed in both obvious and less obvious ways to the training of our health professionals. I commend the bill to the House.