



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Tuesday, 23 May 2006

PERSONAL INJURIES PROCEEDINGS (LEGAL ADVERTISING) AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (8.11 pm): I rise to participate in the debate on the Personal Injuries Proceedings (Legal Advertising) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2006. I wish to limit my comments to the amendments in this bill which amend the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. I note that the minister in her second reading speech talked about how these amendments will enable the Supreme Court to impose interim detention pending the determination of an application relating to the contravention of a supervision order. It is good news that the government is again responding to community concerns on this issue.

I note that in the bill and in the minister's second reading speech she again uses the words that the police officer or the corrective services officer has to 'reasonably suspect' that a released prisoner is likely to contravene. It is not any suspicion; it is those important words that we discussed when debating a number of bills during the last sitting of parliament. Again, we saw those words 'reasonably suspects'. I am very pleased that the minister has used those words. It should allay any concerns that other members may have, because I believe those words are appropriate. I certainly support the intent of what the minister is trying to achieve with this bill.

The explanatory notes refer to the likely cost of these amendments. Even if it were the case that there would be a significant cost to the Department of Corrective Services, I would still be supporting this bill. I note that in her second reading speech the minister indicated it is not likely there will be a significant impact on the existing resources of the Department of Corrective Services. I think that is secondary. I think the intent of the legislation is right. I think she is addressing a concern in our community. If it were the case that there would be a significant resource cost to the Department of Corrective Services, I believe all Queenslanders would support her to still proceed with this bill and for those costs to be recovered elsewhere. Bear in mind that in three weeks time the next budget will be brought down by the Treasurer. I commend the bill to the House and I look forward to it proceeding to the consideration in detail stage.