



Speech by

**Steve Dickson**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

Hansard Wednesday, 1 November 2006

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## **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr DICKSON** (Kawana—Lib) (12.35 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2006. I would like to touch on the provisions of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act concerning reducing exposure to tobacco smoke of members of the public. This is one issue that I believe has to be touched on. I recently went to the Victory Hotel with the member for Surfers Paradise. It was quite interesting to walk into that facility where the law is being flouted. The barrier between where members of the public sit and eat their meals and where the smokers are supposed to be has gaps of over 2½ metres. It came to my attention after being there for some time that people were candidly walking around this facility with cigarettes in their hands where patrons are not supposed to smoke and then walking into areas where patrons can smoke.

The reality is that this is about policing. People do not care; they are telling the government to butt out—'We are not interested in your legislation. We are not going to adhere to your laws'. I would like to see the minister take this seriously. Smoking is very dangerous and causes health problems for many people in our community. I support the government in relation to this because I believe that we have to work together to stamp this out. People are flaunting the law. The government has to jump on top of it. We have to force it to jump on top of it. The people who own these facilities, which are mainly licensed venues, are flouting the law. If we do not jump on them, nothing will be done.

A couple of years ago I travelled to Hong Kong. When one walks into the facilities in that country there is a cubicle where people who smoke have to go to smoke. They are not let out into the general public area. This is what I see as a law that is fulfilled. If people do the wrong thing they are dragged away. Here if a person does the wrong thing we do nothing. We have to treat this legislation seriously. That is why I bring it to the attention of the House today. It is a very serious matter that this law is not being adhered to. If we continue to let people flout the law they will continue to do so. I support the government in relation to this bill in this regard, but I ask the government to please take the issue seriously. We have to get on top of this. There are young people and mums and dads who stand outside these facilities.

These businesses say, 'We are going to go backward if we do not let people smoke in certain areas.' On the Sunshine Coast we have hotels that have actually banned smoking altogether. They do not go backward at all. It creates a family environment where people can take their family along, have a meal and enjoy the atmosphere of their local community. I would like to see this government push strongly ahead with this and come down very hard on these law-breakers.