



Speech by

Dr Bruce Flegg

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard Wednesday, 5 September 2007

UNDER-AGE DRINKING

Dr FLEGG (Moggill—Lib) (11.35 am): There is a plague in Queensland that this government seems to care little about preventing, and that plague is under-age drinking. Some members of our community are so concerned about this problem that a group has got together to launch a petition which I am very proud to stand here and support on their behalf. Among their members are Dr Murray Bingham, Gabrielle Bingham, Anne D'Arcy Evans, Scott Emerson, Robyn Emerson and John Patton. Robyn Emerson will be the chief petitioner. These are members of the community who have come forward because they are concerned that there is a serious issue that is not being addressed in this state, and that is that liquor licensing applies on licensed premises but there is no law in this state that prevents the supply of liquor to under-age people for the purpose of their consumption.

Mr Lawlor interjected.

Dr FLEGG: I hear the interjections from the member for Southport. He and his government should be ashamed that they have done nothing about this plague that is affecting us. Up to a third of under-aged groups are regular drinkers. It exposes them to serious risk of injury. It exposes them to excessive risk-taking behaviour. Around one in eight young people who die in this country die as a result of alcohol. We are kidding ourselves and this government is kidding the people of Queensland if it thinks that this is harmless fun and if it continues to turn a blind eye to one of the most serious problems confronting young people.

Time expired.