



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Thursday, 22 February 2007

LIQUOR (RESTRICTION OF SUPPLY TO MINORS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.24 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Liquor (Restriction of Supply to Minors) Amendment Bill 2007 seeks to amend the Liquor Act 1992 by making it illegal for anyone except a 'responsible adult' to supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 in private residences. A fundamental tenet of this legislation is that the responsible adult must be present should alcohol be consumed. 'Responsible adult' is defined in the legislation as being an adult who is the minor's parent, step-parent or guardian or who has parental rights and responsibilities for the minor.

For a number of years at schoolies festivals it has become obvious to authorities that parents are stocking and restocking their young school leavers' units with alcohol throughout the festivals and effectively relinquishing any responsibility. Although Queensland licensing laws restrict the sale of alcohol to people under 18, there are limited controls on supplying alcohol to minors following its purchase. While it is illegal to supply a minor with alcohol in a licensed premise or public place, there are no existing laws in Queensland relating to the supply of alcohol to minors in private residences, such as holiday units.

The lack of controls effectively enables third-party sales, or what the 2005 ministerial forum to discuss schoolies alcohol issues labelled 'secondary supply'. Secondary supply is where adults, such as parents, older siblings and even strangers on the street, legally supply alcohol to underage teens, such as at teen parties. The 2005 forum suggested secondary supply of alcohol to minors from either an immediate relative or a friend's parent accounted for 64 per cent of supply to minors.

Mr Speaker, I seek leave to have the rest of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I recognise that there needs to be a delicate balance struck. I support the rights of parents and guardians to make decisions on sensible alcohol consumption within their families, for example having a glass of wine at home to cautiously introduce a youngster to alcohol. However, schoolies and underage teen parties have caused a high level of concern in the community. Parties of this kind encourage teens to consume dangerously high levels of alcohol.

This piece of legislation is similar to one that currently exists in New South Wales and has the support of the Australian Drug and Alcohol Foundation (QLD) and the Gold Coast Licensed Venues Association.

The trends at Schoolies Week and the circumstances where teenagers attend parties with supplied alcohol is a concern to me as a parent. This piece of legislation is an important step to protect our youth from the dangers of excessive alcohol use.

I commend the Bill to the House.