



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Safer Queensland Web Site

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.10 am): Today I will launch a new web site to provide easy access to information to help reduce unnecessary accidents and injuries. The Safer Queensland web site has been established following close consultation with communities throughout the state, with other government departments and private sector agencies and with community groups and networks. In developing the site, the Department of Emergency Services has not tried to establish itself as a font of all knowledge on safety issues. Rather, the web site provides key information on safety issues and initiatives from government departments and community organisations and then links the user to other web sites that can provide more detailed information.

The information is provided in a clear and simple format relevant to a broad audience including the general public, professionals, researchers and students. Importantly, the web site provides details of how individuals can get involved in improving safety in their own home and community. The objective is to provide increased awareness of accident and injury prevention, personal safety and crime prevention and to reduce risks from natural hazards such as storms and cyclones. The web site will also help with the sharing of information from research or experience which can contribute to improved community safety.

As the web site aims to reduce unnecessary accidents and injuries, it is useful to consider some of Queensland's injury statistics. Each year in Queensland around 175,000 people are injured—that is 480 people each day. A high proportion of these injuries occur around the home where most of us would consider ourselves safe and secure. For example, around 3,700 Queenslanders are injured in their bathrooms each year and an estimated 4,000 attend emergency departments each year because of bites or stings, with most of these occurring around the home or garden. Unfortunately, children are the victims of far too many injuries. Children account for 21 per cent of all farm injuries in Queensland and around 40 per cent of bathroom injuries involve children under five years. Hopefully this web site will play a part in reducing some of those figures and I encourage all members to visit the web site at www.safer.qld.gov.au for more information.