



Speech by

Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Hansard Tuesday, 25 October 2011

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Keppel, we need to go back a step. In our enthusiasm to get on to this particular business, we omitted to move the second reading. I now call the Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.19 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I note that the Community Affairs Committee completed its report to the parliament on 12 October 2011. Its only recommendation was that the bill be passed without amendment. The government is very pleased to accept the committee's recommendation in this regard.

I take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to the chair, Mr Paul Hoolihan, and the committee for their speedy consideration of and reporting on the bill. The bill is an omnibus bill that includes amendments to adoption, child protection and births, deaths and marriages legislation. As I outlined to the House in my introduction and referral speech, the bill has been prepared to extend the Cape York welfare reform trial and the operation of the Family Responsibilities Commission—the FRC—by 12 months. As the current legislation is due to expire on 1 January 2012 and the FRC is due to cease on 31 December 2011, the bill is being progressed as a matter of urgency to ensure that the amendments contained in the bill are in place to support the continuation of the trial into 2012.