



Speech by

Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Wednesday, 11 May 2011

CRIMINAL CODE (ANZAC DAY BETTING) AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.52 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code to legalise two-up games at certain Anzac Day celebrations. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Anzac Day Betting) Amendment Bill [\[4430\]](#).

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Anzac Day Betting) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes [\[4431\]](#).

Second Reading

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.52 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

It is not known the exact origins of the game two-up, but it seems to have evolved from another game called pitch-and-toss, a game involving tossing a single coin into the air and wagering on the result. History says that two-up was played amongst poorer English and Irish citizens in the 18th century. The movement of convicts to Australia brought two-up with them and this was noted as early as 1798 by the New South Wales first Judge Advocate. Over time the two coin form was being played in the goldfields and is said to have spread across the country following subsequent gold rushes.

During the First World War the game was said to have been played extensively by Australian soldiers. It is during these war-torn years that Queenslanders and Australians have come to pay tribute to our fallen diggers and as a part of that respect we participate in a game of two-up on Anzac Day each year just as our diggers did all those years ago.

Under the current criminal law anyone participating in such a game outside of a casino with a regulated game could face criminal charges. That is why today I am moving to insert an exemption in the Criminal Code to ensure that those persons who are at Anzac Day celebrations on Anzac Day in any licensed club or pub will be able to participate in a game of two-up. Clubs and pubs will be able to hold these games without fear of threats of being shut down, as was reported to have happened in Cairns on Anzac Day this year.

This bill seeks to remove any doubt that the criminal law of unlawful games under section 232 of the Criminal Code does not apply to particular exempt two-up games. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Reeves, adjourned.