



Speech by


## Dale Shuttleworth

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Thursday, 1 November 2012

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### FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferny Grove—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to give my support to this simple amendment which extends the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial a further year through to December 2013. The townships of Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge have had this trial in place since its commencement in July 2008. Its primary aim is to restore social norms, to increase local authority and to improve educational and economic outcomes. This planned extension will allow for consolidation of the great work of the commission to this point and allow for the development of a transitional plan for the affected communities following on from 1 January 2014.

A number of programs were provided to the communities either directly through the commission or through third-party providers such as: Ending Family Violence, which is a program aimed at increasing awareness of domestic violence and impacts upon the family unit and the wider community; MPower, which is a family income management program designed to increase financial literacy and to modify behaviour towards asset growth and more secure and sustainable futures; the parenting program, which is based upon the Triple P program and extends the thought that it takes a village to raise a child, and the elders of the communities are able to incorporate the traditional methodologies as well into this program; Student Case Management, which is a program designed to increase attendance at schools and it ensures that the child's attendance is productive and that cultural sensitivities are accounted for in the management of the student's overall objectives; the Transition Support Service, which is a program primarily tasked with assisting transition into secondary boarding schools, ensuring that both cultural and emotional sensitivities are accounted for during the extended absence of young adults from their families and their communities; the Wellbeing Centre, which is currently operated by the Royal Flying Doctor Service and is looking at the overall improvement of health and healthy outcomes throughout the communities, and this program aims to increase the awareness of diet and physical fitness on overall health outcomes and aims to empower individuals and communities to achieve greater health across all areas, thereby reducing their dependency on primary and secondary health care in these remote regions; and the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial, which is a partnership between the federal and state governments with the four communities mentioned aimed at addressing the passive dependence on welfare and rebuild social norms. With the sunset period identified, I look forward to hearing from the commission about the plans to transition these communities away from this program towards self-governance and the brighter future which we all hope and wish for the Indigenous communities.

Another component of this bill is that it modifies the requirement of a quorum. Currently, there is an overly cumbersome requirement for the three members to be present. This amendment means that any two will be sufficient to form a quorum. This small change should ensure that the tight time frames for change and the rigorous program of development to effective transition out of this program are not impeded by a lack of availability of commission staff. I commend this bill to the House.