




Speech by

Hon. Desley Boyle

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2012

CHARITABLE AND NON-PROFIT GAMING (TWO-UP) AMENDMENT BILL AND CRIMINAL CODE (ANZAC DAY BETTING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. D BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (9.09 pm): My timing turns out to be excellent in being able to inform honourable members of the House as to why I do support this legislation that we are discussing this evening. It is not of course legislation reflecting major social change. It is, however, legislation to provide good order throughout Queensland on one of the most important days on the Australian annual calendar.

I confess that it is in my electorate and adjacent electorates where there has been some disorder in past years, where the enthusiasm of being part of a two-up game has led some to, wittingly or unwittingly, breach the law. It is indeed good policy, as we are dealing with it tonight, to put some order and rigour around what is and is not permissible on Anzac Day, particularly with regard to two-up.

It is a very important thing, of course, for those of all ages associated with Anzac Day, not just those directly concerned as returned servicemen but also the families of those who have now passed on who served on fronts overseas, those who have lost loved ones and the young ones who come from all the schools—at least they do in Cairns—to join in the parade, to watch the parade, to pause for a moment, to be so proud to be Australian. And it is important that after the parade and the official occasions of Anzac Day there is some collegiality, some good humour, some joining together and celebration of what it means to be Australian. And two-up connects to that for very many people.

I am pleased, therefore, to support this bill. It provides appropriate rules about where, when and how best it can be managed and ensures that any moneys that are made will go towards supporting the RSL. I was pleased to be on the committee that examined this bill and was impressed, as I have been in years past, with the sensible advice provided by key stakeholders, in particular of course RSL Queensland and Clubs Queensland. Their expert advice guided us well. I recognise the minister and his department for the sensible wording that has made the bill before us this evening workable. The fact is that the opposition's attempt was not workable and they should be thanking us indeed as the government for providing the expertise and direction that means we can join together tonight and support the legislation before the House.