



Speech by


**Liz Cunningham**

**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2012

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

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (8.55 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate. I listened to the minister's contribution in relation to the opposition's bill and noted that his contribution included a statement that the bill as it was tabled exposes the people of Queensland to some legal liability if it passed. I take that advice genuinely and for that reason—

**Mr Lucas:** It is about the agreement with the casinos. The casinos have the exclusive right to do two-up.

**Mrs CUNNINGHAM:** I heard the minister say that. I think that is important. Sometimes those of us who have been here for short periods—and longer periods—do not understand. We do not keep in our mind all of the details of legislation and agreements and it is important for us to recognise that.

The legalisation of two-up on Anzac Day will give some peace of mind to some people, and I support it. I know that the diggers slip off in various ways to places to play two-up. I think there will be a down side to this legislation. I am going to support it, but I think there will be a down side to this legislation. There is a bit of larrikinism in Aussies who enjoyed the fact that it was not legal. That added an edge to the two-up game. I think that once it becomes legal the shine will go off a little bit. I do not know that too many of the games had a 'cockatoo'.

**Mr Lucas:** It was never legal when played during the war.

**Mrs CUNNINGHAM:** In my electorate I am sure it did not happen because we have very law-abiding citizens. However, if it did I am sure it was done with a great spirit of camaraderie. I do not know whether they ever had 'cockatoos' at any of the venues. However, I do think that something will be lost when this bill is passed. Yes, it will give it legal coverage but it will take away that edge that it has always had with the whispering and, 'This is where the game is.'

I support that amendment. As the second reading speech said, Anzac Day and Armistice Day are very important days in our recognition of the freedom that we enjoy, the price that freedom holds and the cost of war. I think we should never lose sight of that. We are a unique nation in that our democracy was not built on conflict; it was built on agreement and consensus. I know that I do not appreciate it as much as I should. Anzac Day is a very important day for me and for everybody in recognising the sacrifice of our men and women in all theatres of war and across all of the areas of the service.

The amendment talks about the serving of alcohol at major sports facilities. Anzac Day and Armistice Day are sacred in the sense of our recognition of the cost of war and the price of peace. We have other sacred days in the Christian faith. Christmas Day celebrates the birth of Christ. Good Friday is a very solemn day when we recognise and remember the death of Christ and we remember Easter Sunday for the resurrection. Many people recognise those days in different ways, and I acknowledge that. For some people part of that recognition is getting out and having a good time.

I appreciate the amendment that the opposition have indicated they will allow to pass, and I will certainly be supporting that. I just think it should be put on the record that we appear in many instances to be sensitive to the religious importance of so many groups that live and share our nationhood but we readily compromise the values on which we, as a second nation in this country, are built. I believe we need as a parliament and we need as a community to recognise the importance of those sacred days in our Christian calendar. I understand the purpose of this amendment, but I place on the record the concern that is often expressed to me that we also need to give protection and sanctity to those days that are important to our Christian faith.