




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2014

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.23 pm): I rise to support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, which not only complies with this government's promise to continually reduce red tape but also reflects the expectations of the community in a number of areas with regard to health services and improvement of community standards. The bill amends eight health portfolio acts in total. However, today I will focus on just a few of those changes that I feel strike a chord with the wider community. Firstly, the bill continues the ongoing efforts of government at all levels to de-normalise the habit of smoking. It certainly is a problem in the community. It is an issue where there will always be differences of opinion as to where regulation should stop and personal responsibility should start. However, the facts tell a story that as a government we cannot ignore. As the minister discussed in his introductory speech, more than 3,400 Queenslanders die each year from smoking related illness. Smoking accounts for roughly \$6.1 billion in health costs, lost productivity and premature deaths in Queensland.

I want to touch on the issue of vaperisers. We have tabled a couple of petitions on behalf of constituents, particularly in the House, and I want to make a point that the bill provides some clarity around the sale and issue of these products, e-pens and e-cigarettes, and I acknowledge the clarification that has been put in the House in relation to the meaning of 'personal vaporising devices'. These products are currently enjoying a boom in popularity. That is why it is important that the legislation encapsulates what the chemicals are and how they will have a greater impact on our society. I acknowledge that we have considerable support from members of the community about e-pens and e-cigarettes. I pass on my congratulations to the minister and the committee and I support the passage of this legislation through the House.