




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): We live in a society where each Monday morning young men and women are wheeled into operating theatres to repair the damage resulting from weekend alcohol fuelled violence. We live in a society where police resources are tied up dealing with assaults, sexual offences and other crimes that can be directly linked to the overconsumption of alcohol. We live in a society where it has become commonplace, but in no circumstances acceptable, for drunken behaviour to be expected. We live in a society where it is time to say enough.

Each year 30,000 Queenslanders are admitted to hospital after alcohol related incidents. One in six Queenslanders has been a victim of alcohol fuelled violence. Two-thirds of Queenslanders consider the city or centre of their town unsafe on a Saturday night. Each week operating theatres throughout our major hospitals are clogged with young Queenslanders needing major surgery for injuries suffered in alcohol related incidents.

Labor went to the 2015 state election with a policy designed to tackle the issue of alcohol fuelled violence. This week my government will deliver on that commitment by introducing into this parliament new legislation to deal with this issue. Measures that will be implemented by this legislation include: a winding back of the hours during which venues can serve alcohol; a ban on the sale of high-content alcoholic drinks after midnight; and changes to the current statewide lockout policy. This policy is based on both considerable research and considerable consultation over the last eight months and the experience of other jurisdictions in combatting alcohol fuelled violence. The government has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders while developing this legislation and we have listened to the feedback we have received.